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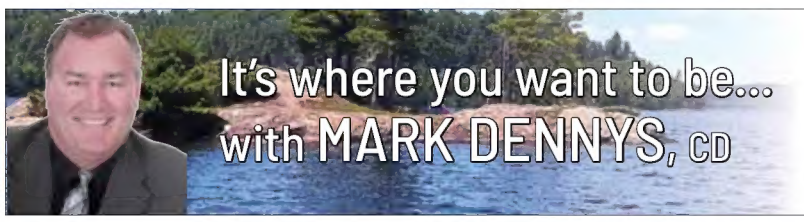

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Making waves page 3 **Brooksong support** page 12 **Middle school graduates** pages 20-26

Hide and seek
A group of kids lean against the Gooderham Community Centre as they play games with their friends on Canada Day last week. For more Canada Day photos, see inside this edition. /IVY KATZ staff

Local LifeLabs future uncertain

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

The ongoing closure of the Haliburton LifeLabs location does not seem to be coming to an end any time soon.

With uncertainty since early spring, the problem came to Dysart council at the end of April. At the time, the facility had already been closed for weeks, citing an unpleasant odour as the reason the doors were shut. Dysart staff had been directed to employ Pinchin Ltd. to complete a ventilation performance review of the facility, to try to get to the root of the odour.

It was identified that there were elevated carbon dioxide and total volatile organic compound (TVOC) concentrations within the facility. "Based on a review of the existing HVAC systems, available documentation, and site observations, the facility appears to be experiencing building-wide reduced ventilation effectiveness, which is likely contributing to the elevated carbon dioxide and TVOC concentrations observed throughout the building," reads the Pinchin report to council.

The needs for the building came with a price tag of $23,913.60, plus an additional $2,000 for electrical costs; an unbudgeted expenditure for Dysart.

The municipality owns the Gelert Road location, which includes LifeLabs, as well as Haliburton Vision Care, Hill Chiropractic and Physiotherapy, Haliburton and Bancroft Midwives, and Haliburton Family Medical Centre. At the time of press, LifeLabs is the only location on-site that is closed due to the ongoing odour investigation.

The location provides a multitude of testing, including heart monitoring, oncology testing, at-home collection kits, genetic tests, and general diagnostic tests, to name a few.

During the April 28 meeting, council bounced around ideas for an alternative site. Councillor Nancy Wood-Roberts inquired about whether LifeLabs could use another location while their current space is undergoing these challenges. She suggested a trailer, or perhaps a room at the local legion. CAO Tamara Wilbee shared that there would be costs associated with renovating an additional space. "So I don't think that's their ideal situation," she said. Council was in support of setting up a trailer if the close date is prolonged.

And weeks later, the facility is still shuttered. After reaching out to LifeLabs media team multiple times, the *Echo* received a statement from the organization. "In February, an odour issue was reported at our Haliburton patient service centre (PSC)," it reads. "That odour issue continues today. Investigation and testing have confirmed there are no mold or gas leak concerns. While the source of the odour remains under investigation by the municipality, the PSC will remain temporarily closed out of an abundance of caution."

see LIFELABS page 16

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New HHHSF director returns 'home'

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

If you were to use one word that describes Kathryn Quick's outlook on life, it would be "hope".

The interim executive director for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation stepped into the role on June 8, but she's no stranger to the organization.

She formerly served as the donor relations manager between the years of 2023 to 2025. Last year, she took a brief hiatus to explore new opportunities, before returning to the community for the interim role this summer.

"I really believed in the work that was happening here," said Quick, "and I was really honoured to be asked to come back."

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services is 100 per cent donor funded. That means everything from a CT scanner and mammography, right down to bedding and toiletries, are entirely funded by our community.

While there are major events that put a dent into the projects, such as the upcoming Matt Duchene golf tournament, slated for July 17, or the upcoming Moose FM radiothon in August, Quick is committed to working alongside the community to ensure transparency and sustainability for the future of the local hospital site.

"Kathryn will have full responsibility to lead the Foundation staff team as we head into a busy summer season," said David Blodgett, the chair of the HHHS Foundation. "Kathryn and the Foundation team are well positioned to build on the strong community support we are fortunate to receive and the continuing momentum built on the very successful 'Here for You in the Highlands' campaign for Diagnostic Imaging."

There are some lofty goals, but Quick is passionate about working towards the initiatives as a community. "My goal is to listen to people," she said, "for donors to have trust in what we are doing. It's all our collective responsibility to do this."

Additional priorities for the site are a focus on the emergency room, as well as equipment for specific pediatric needs; tools that all members of the community would use and benefit from, whether that be seasonal or year-round residents. "There can't be this us versus them mindset," said Quick. "We're all here because we love it here, we want to be here, and we use the same resources."

If financial contributions are not possible, Quick noted that volunteers are always welcome with HHHS, and simply sharing your experience and contributing to the conversation around local healthcare is beneficial, if done in a constructive manner.

"We want to continue with this momentum," she said. "We have to keep aspiring and advocating for ourselves, because we're worthy."

The next event for the HHHS Foundation is the Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic, set for July 17 at the Blairhampton Golf Course. Last year, the event brought in over $233,000. The Foundation is hoping to surpass that goal this year.

Kathryn Quick is the interim executive director for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation, and is eager to work with the community on upcoming initiatives with the organization. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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Tag Day to support Minden Health Auxiliary

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Health Care in Minden simply would not be the same without the support of the Minden Health Care Auxiliary volunteers.

A crucial fundraiser for the Auxiliary, this year's Tag Day will be on July 10.

Last year, the Minden Health Care Auxiliary raised $7,000 from their annual Tag Day event.

"I think I speak for all of our members when I say we love getting out and meeting these people," said Cecille Gibbons, a dedicated Auxiliary member.

The money gathered was directly put towards the new gynaecology clinic, which opened its doors at the Minden Health Hub in 2025.

Another initiative that the Auxiliary continuously supports is the Adult Day Program, also held at the Minden Health Hub.

Working in collaboration with Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS), the Auxiliary supports local healthcare with much needed equipment and programming.

"These are usually items associated with the Highland Crest Long Term Care Home," said Gibbons.

This year, the Auxiliary is looking at using the funds raised during Tag Day to purchase a wound cart. This device will be used to address patients' needs of care with bed sores, cuts, and scrapes.

Needed supplies of which are quite expensive, says Gibbons.

The Auxiliary also plans on purchasing new bed equipment, a hot holding unit, and a machine to puree food for the Long Term Care facility.

In addition to Tag Day, the Auxiliary will also raise funds through their annual Wine on Wheels fundraiser.

This year's Wine on Wheels draw will be taking place on Sept. 26 at the Minden Farmers' Market. Tickets for the draw will be available to purchase at the market, as well as their Auxiliary gift shop, and from any Auxiliary member directly.

Keep an eye out for Auxiliary members at Canadian Tire, Minden Tim Hortons, Foodland, Valu Mart, Home Hardware, and Boshkung Social in the morning to late afternoon on Friday, July 10.

Minden Health Care Auxiliary volunteers can accept e-transfers, cash, credit, and debit.

Consider donating to the Health Care Auxiliary on July 10 and know that you are making a direct impact towards health care across Haliburton County.

The more the Auxiliary can support HHHS, the more capital the HHS Foundation has for other health care needs.

"Everybody wins," said Gibbons.

Local wakeboarder hits international waters

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

West Guilford local Harmony Meirik, third from the left, has qualified wakeboarding for Team Canada in the upcoming Pan Am games in Peru. /submitted

For some, a debilitating injury would be enough to call it quits.

For West Guilford local and professional wakeboarder Harmony Meirik, it was just the beginning of a new chapter.

When the 21-year-old Maple Lake resident tore her ACL in 2024, she had a choice to make: Call it quits with the rigorous water sport, or give it everything she had.

Luckily for Canada, she chose the latter.

"I was out for the whole season," she recalled. "But I really think it made me more resilient. It's a tough mental game, but I focus on doing things the right way."

The injury came at a time when it seemed as though her professional career was just getting started. In 2023, she placed first in the Canadian Nationals for the 14 to 18 age range. She then went on to attend the 2023 World Championships in Portugal, winning the bronze medal for Canada.

The injury took place in 2024, on her own lake, with her own board. "I felt it," she said, "I knew something was wrong."

The athlete went to Buffalo for an MRI to skip the Ontario healthcare wait-times, and it was quickly noted that she had fully torn her ACL. She received care from the "Toronto Sports Doc", Dr. Jihad Abouali, who had been appointed the role of lead medical physician at the Toronto 2015 PanAm Games, and head orthopaedic surgeon at the 2022 Ontario Games.

Following a successful surgery and eight full months of rehabilitation, Meirik was ready to return to the sport she loves.

She first set foot on a wakeboard when she was 11-years-old. "But sometimes the progress feels slow," she said, noting that the practice season for an Ontario summer is only a few short weeks. She often competes against fellow athletes who are able to ride for the majority of the year in warmer climates; a goal she is working towards one day.

Meirik's most recent accomplishment came in early June, when she competed at Bocalaguna in Chapala, Mexico, donning the Canadian flag. Alongside Joey Gurr, Baye Hoctor-Duncan, and Hunter Smith, all individual wakeboarders from across the country, Meirik and the small but mighty team officially secured a spot for Canada at the upcoming Pan American Wakeboard Championships held in Lima, Peru in 2027.

But it doesn't stop there. Just because her team qualified, it doesn't mean she specifically will be representing the country next fall. "I have to keep training and pushing this summer," she said. "I'll be going to Nationals and also Worlds. I have to keep getting those points, and I have to keep winning."

Some would have seen the start of Meirik's 2026 season locally, as she was on Head Lake with her wakeboard in May. "I was on the water as soon as the ice melted," she laughed. "It was the first ride of the season, and it was a little chilly."

The duration of the summer will be dedicated to earning her spot at the upcoming PanAm Games. Held every four years, the PanAm games welcome countries from around the world to participate. The events are direct qualifiers to the Olympic stage. While wakeboarding is not yet an Olympic sport, Meirk hopes that it will soon be added to the roster of summer sports, and she will have a new goal to focus on: getting to that podium.

But she can't do it alone. She has a sponsor this year, Muskoka Boat Gallery, who is helping her travel around the world for the sport. And most importantly, she has her family. "My biggest fans," she said. "I'd like to give them that shoutout."

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Is Artificial Intelligence failing in the classroom? A closer look at AI

IVY KATZ
Journalist

Globally, there is a shift away from using Artificial Intelligence (AI) in classrooms. World-wide, studies show cognitive performance is decreased in students whose academic experience relies on these technologies.

In classrooms across the world, many countries are putting the brakes on the use of AI . Norway has a near-total ban on generative AI tools (GenAI) for Grades 1-7. Sweden is returning to books and handwriting in the classrooms.

UK, Sweden, Norway, Australia, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and some U.S. states are either fully removing or heavily restricting the use of tablets and GenAI from their elementary and high schools.

A 2025 article by the Fraser Institute stated, "Schools should go back to basics to mitigate effects of AI," and points out that students have better test scores if they go home and read books at night rather than using ChatGPT to do their homework for them.

The actions of reading and writing develop critical foundational skills that use of chatbots cannot.

Dr. Jared Horvath is a cognitive neuroscientist and educator who studies how the brain learn. According to him, GenZ is the first generation since the late 1800s to score less well than their parents on all cognitive tasks (attention, memory, literacy, math, problem solving) and have lower IQ scores. This change happened around 2010, and is associated with the adoption of digital tech in the schools, he said.

Horvath cites data from 80 countries that confirms kids who spend five hours a day on tech-learning platforms score two thirds of a standard deviation lower than kids who rarely use these tools for learning.

Use of AI in Ontario schools not slowing down

While many countries are restricting how educators and students can use these tools, and Manitoba's French division has changed what homework kids do to avoid the use of generative AI, Ontario seems out of step with this trend. The province is not imposing restrictions; rather, it has left policy and regulation up to individuals school boards.

According to the Waterloo Region District Schoolboard website, they allow students in Grades 7-12 access to generative AI in the classroom. The website provides GenAI student guidelines and supports for parents, with an invitation for input and collaboration from families.

However, the use of AI tools is left up to the individual teachers, who "may choose to include, limit, or omit the use of GenAI tools." This leaves little oversight, and a lot of pressure, as teachers scramble to master the technology.

Locally, according to the Trillium Lakelands District School Board website, AI use by students and teachers is permitted.

The Ontario Teachers' Federation provides key discussion points and papers recognizing concerns with AI, but there is not a single, unified policy, according to the academic journal, *Conversation*.

GenAI: a learning tool?

Readily available GenAI language models like ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or Grok, create content such as, text messages, emails, images, computer code, mathematical equations, so the user does not have to. Studies show that more and more youth use GenAI to compose their text messages and emails.

Neuroscience and education experts argue that AI is like an external tool that helps one avoid mental effort, known as "cognitive off-loading." People aged 17 to 25 exhibited higher dependence on AI tools and lower critical thinking skills compared to other participants, according to a 2025 study published in the journal, *Societies.*

An article in the *Journal of Pedagogical Research* noted "Examining the potential pitfalls of AI in problem solving" and demonstrated that increasing use of GenAI in kindergarten to Grade 12 resulted in students' decreased creativity and problem solving, inability to explain their logic and reasoning, a dependency on AI for problem solving, and deficiencies in problem solving.

The Brookings Institution's Centre for Universal Education completed a year long global study in January of this year, that concluded "the risks of utilizing generative AI in children's education overshadow its benefits." The paper also specifies: "well-designed AI tools and platforms can offer students a number of learning benefits if deployed as a part of an overall, pedagogically sound approach."

But that does not appear to be the current situation. In March 2025, Stanford university reported that it is more likely AI is simply helping students (Grades K to 12) complete tasks but is not helping them develop durable learning skills.

"The systems were never designed to be a learning tool," said Dr. Horvath.

Erin Mote, CEO of not-for-profit, InnovateEDU agrees. "A consumer large language model is engineered for platform and customer retention and satisfaction. To keep users engaged, it defaults to a dangerous form of algorithmic sycophancy. It does not teach. It indulges. It validates incorrect premises and hand-delivers answers," she says.

Local physician glad to see AI risks being recognized

Minden-based family physician, Dr. Nell Thomas, agrees that peoples' dependence on computing programs is taking over. "Adults rely on AI to answer emails, summarize articles and books, seek medical advice, do basic math, even provide therapy and romance."

Dr. Thomas is very concerned about young peoples' struggles with social skills, such as making a phone call. "They tell me they cannot read handwritten text or cursive writing, and they rely entirely on auto-correct, despite acknowledging its grammatical and content inaccuracies," she said.

"Young people especially, more than adults, are relying on AI search engines for answering basic life questions; this dependency is turning off our frontal lobes." said Dr. Thomas. "The frontal lobes continue to form throughout adolescence. This part of the brain is responsible for decision making and impulse control."

Dr. Thomas added, "I am very eager for guardrails in the schools to limit this dependency. I am pleased to see the risks being recognized now."

Natalie Houston, a therapist and mother of four, was one of 1,000 parents who signed a petition calling for the school to remove MagicSchool's AI tools from the classroom, after discovering third graders having "an unhealthy relationship" with MagicSchool's chatbot, Raina. The company did remove Raina, and a spokesperson for the company announced on Oregon Public Broadcasting, "The concerns the Bend-La Pine parents are voicing about how chatbots are normalizing unhealthy relationships during critical brain development are valid."

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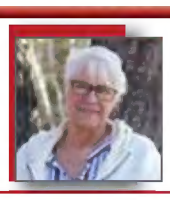

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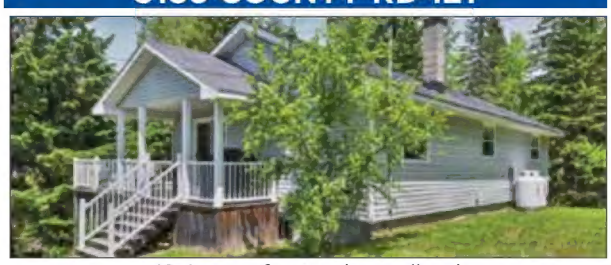

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Sharing the stories of Camp Calumet

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Photos from various decades and eras at Camp Calumet, on the shores of Boshkung Lake in Algonquin Highlands. Carol Moffatt, the organizer of the current exhibit at the Stanhope Museum, put a call out, seeking memories from attendees of the well-known camp, and was flooded with images and stories that span decades. For the full exhibit and to take in the photographs and artifacts from the camp, visit the Stanhope Museum before Labour Day. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Anyone who has ever been to camp knows the feeling.

It's not something you can put into words. Not a tangible item, or something a snapshot can explain.

It's a feeling. It's the crackle of the firewood, the smell of morning dew. It's an icy splash on a hot day, and cold spaghetti in a timber hall.

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A place that builds and forms thousands in our community. The Haliburton Highlands has had hundreds of camps nestled in all its corners over the years. Even now, it has one of the highest concentrations of camps in the province, making it a destination for campers from around the world.

But there was one spot that stood out to many. A place that formed memories, lasted generations, and welcomed everyone: Camp Calumet. And now, everyone will get a chance to hear its story.

Nestled on the shores of Boshkung Lake in Algonquin Highlands, the camp operated between 1930 to 1991. The lifetime was divided into two eras, based on ownership, with Garnet Bailey running an ad in the *Toronto Star*, offering "Beautiful location, good beach, chain of lakes. All land and water sports, wholesome food, experienced instructors."

Garnet and his wife, Lillian, ran the program the first year with just six boys, on one small acre of land.

The story continued in 1968, when the property was purchased by Jim and Joan Cochlin, who welcomed all kids, of all ages and stages, from anywhere in the world to experience Camp Calumet. By this time, the site had expanded, and with Joan having ties to the camp as a staff member, the transition was a natural fit.

The Cochlins went about adding to the roster of activities, to include windsurfing, kayaking, mountain biking, and tubing.

The camp continued to grow, and so did the memories associated with it.

With hundreds attending each summer, Camp Calumet became a staple destination in Algonquin Highlands, with its legacy continuing to this day.

There's much, much more to write on the topic. But it's already been written. It's been a story that's been in the works since last fall, spearheaded by local historian and exhibit lead for the Stanhope Museum, Carol Moffatt. "Having never gone to a camp, this was a labour of love," she laughed. "But it's an important story to tell."

With thousands of kids gracing the shores of Boshkung through the camp, its slogan was: "Where Everyone Belonged". When Moffatt started putting together the bits and pieces of the camp, she realized that this story was much bigger than what she had imagined. "I couldn't tell this story if I didn't have the insight of the memories from the people who went there," she explained. "This is not one person telling a story, this is the story of hundreds of people coming together."

The camp spanned generations; having formed during the Great Depression, navigating World War II, cultural shifts in the 1960s and 1970s, technology crazes of the 1980s and 1990s, the messaging stayed the same. "The biggest thing I learned from this was how foundational the camp was," said Moffatt. "It represents generations of growth and development."

The Stanhope Museum seasonal display is set up much like a mess hall from your everyday camp. With a large map highlighting the property lines, hotspots, and dragons, (yes, you read that correctly), the perimeter is coated with photographs that span nearly a century. "I knew some people who went there," said Moffatt, "I started asking, 'can I talk to you about Calumet?' and not a single person said no."

The photos have been blown up and are scattered around the map, highlighting different decades through clothing, hair styles, colour, and composition. But in every single one of them, there is a face. "I wanted to share the faces," said Moffatt, "because that's where the stories are."

Moffatt noted that as she continued to learn the stories from the camp, the project took on a life of its own. "It's a living thing," she said. "There's an entire world around it."

The stories include thousands of campers, dedicated staff, torch-lit canoe trips, and dragons. In fact, two of the dragons are still present at the site, but you'll have to visit the Stanhope Museum to learn the full story.

The display officially opened the last week of June, and will be available for viewing until Labour Day. The Stanhope Museum is open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday.

While Camp Calumet closed their doors in 1991, the memories live on. And that's exactly what Moffatt is aiming to offer. "I'm really happy with how it came together," she said. "We're building the story, and it's an important story to tell."

"In many ways, Calumet's afterlife became as important as its official life," reads the closing plaque at the museum. "By the time it closed, it had done what it was meant to do: give young people a place to grow. And in its wake, it had built a community strong enough to survive the loss of the place itself."

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Camp tales

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

"HOW DO you tell a story?"

I was asked that simple question this past week, by exhibit curator for the Stanhope Museum, Carol Moffatt.

She wasn't asking me specifically. It was more rhetorical, as she scanned the hundreds of faces of campers she had gotten to know through her development of the Camp Calumet exhibit.

When Carol jumped into this project, she herself noted that it quickly grew legs, and took on a life of its own. The camp saw thousands of kids over its lifetime, and each one brought a spirit and story that embedded itself into the fibres of a cultured quilt.

When I first saw the exhibit, which opened at the end of June, I thought it was specific to Calumet memory holders. That it would be riddled with niche camp practices and inside jokes from a world I never set foot in.

But as I spent more time with the photographs, weaving and wandering through the stories of the past, I realized that the collection was so much more than Calumet.

It's for anyone who has ever camped, anyone who has ever spent time outdoors. It speaks to anyone who has formed friendships with strangers, eaten a meal over an open fire, swam in a lake that was cooled by morning mist.

It's for anyone who found an escape at some chapter in their lives, anyone who seeks reprieve from day-to-day, joy from simple pleasures.

In short, it's for everyone and anyone.

Carol and the team at Stanhope Museum found a story, and gave it legs. And they didn't just write out plaques, clap their hands together, and call it a day.

They created a life.

How do you tell a story, that has been lived and breathed by thousands? Suddenly, it's not just one story to tell, it's every single experience, every single photograph, every single hardship and leap and belief and dream.

And camp is such a foundational experience for anyone who has lived it. It's a reminder that the great outdoors quite literally heals; it shapes lives, builds bonds, offers solace, cultivates creativity.

The friendships and relationships that formed out of Camp Calumet spanned far beyond the years of operation, the memories formed were the building blocks for every attendee, and the confidence that was nurtured during their stays was not exclusive to the location, rather, the experience itself.

As we approach Camp Day for Tim Hortons, slated for July 15 this year, let's remember that camp is so much more than sending your kids to play outside. The experience of camping is about strangers who become friends, friends who become family. It's about pushing outside the little bubble of comfort, and exploring the boldness of a bright new world. It's about feeling safe, feeling strong, feeling supported, feeling seen.

And through it all, it's about the stories. Lived and breathed by thousands.

To the team at Stanhope Museum, kudos to your hard work in bringing these stories to life, to share with everyone and anyone.

Now, they're not just snapshots of the past; bits and pieces of campfire tales and sepia-toned memories.

They're living, breathing, and have legs to run.

Dementia and Soul

Pair, Ponder

Poke, Peel

Fay Martin

IN CASE you missed the last two deep dives into Michael Pollard and the nature of consciousness as relates to dementia, no worries – I'm taking it in another direction.

I'm going to call 'soul' what Pollard called consciousness, by which I mean the combination of identity and agency that makes us who we are. And I'm going to say that when we no longer have agency (the ability to act), the identity part of the soul, aka the observing ego, the 'I' that manages the mechanism, will guide us to whatever comes next.

So I'm going backward in time to before modern medicine promised a cure for everything. Or maybe I'm embracing nature. Certainly I'm rethinking death. I'm familiarizing myself with death as a natural end to life as we know it. I'm not looking forward to it – although I can absolutely envision a time when I will, and I have seen that in other people. For now I'm embracing it as an inevitable experience and one I'd rather be prepared for as best I can.

My faithful readers will recognize my dedication to identity plus agency, an 'I' that can 'do', as the crucial components of human life (and, as Pollard has humbled me, many other life forms). I'm adding 'soul' as the something that makes these two components work together (which may, but maybe not, be unique to humans). Soul, like identity and agency, is value neutral: it can be used for good or evil. (Which we've always known, which is why we created religion and law.)

Soul and dementia. What I'm after here is whether and at what point in the deterioration of the brain does the soul depart. I have to say 'brain', not 'mind', because we don't have any empirical evidence of the mind so we can't measure where or what it is, only what it does. And that, as we absolutely know, is very variable. And so far what we know about dementia (which isn't much) is what it does to the brain.

My research is based primarily on my experiential N of 1, the death of my husband who had dementia. (Probably, although his brain was never explored; maybe it just aged out.) Here's what I 'know': He had a peaceful death. He appeared to walk purposefully, with curiosity, through the portal that divides this earth from whatever the alternative is. He prepared for his death in a planful way, the most active part 25 years previously when he thought he was going to die of cancer and his mind (before the morphine got him) still functioned well. But also, in a more patient way, through his long romance with dementia - I'd say, but it's arguable, for the 15 years after we accepted that dementia was our room-mate, until he died.

He decided it was time to die when he no longer had the energy to find joy and purpose in his day. That was a week before he died. He did his last Facebook post on Tuesday (farewell to the community), got it together for his last meaningful engagement with medical staff on Wednesday, pulled himself together with difficulty to pass a literary cloak to his oldest grandson on Thursday. Then he lapsed into a place not accessible to us to undertake what I imagine was an active engagement with the last stages of life and/or acquaintance with death. On Sunday he died. A good death, as I've mentioned. Meticulously timed to coincide with his daughter, who was not ready for his death, to be out of the room.

So where does my N of 1 get me in talking about soul and dementia? It re-affirms my confidence in the Three Commandments that I learned at the Green Care Farms in the Netherlands:

Live till you die: that's pretty self-evident.

Do with not for: It's the job of the person whose death it is to manage it. The rest of us can only create the conditions under which they can best do their job.

Find joy and purpose every day: When, to use Pollard's description of consciousness, you open your eyes in the morning and a world appears, but you don't have the jam to embrace that world, it's time to go. The agency gas-tank reads empty. Identity changes, from someone who's living to someone who's dying. The soul? I think that's what guides the body through the process.

And where does the soul go when that job is finished? I dunno. My experience is it hangs around, is readily available for consultation, sometimes offers unsolicited advice. For how long? I dunno. For as long as it has joy and purpose, maybe.

points of view

A letter home

LAST WEEK we travelled to the west coast. While there, I wrote my dog Rosie a letter. I am not what you would call a great letter writer, but fortunately I have watched a few Ken Burns documentaries.

Even so, the letter was wasted on my dog, who does not read. So, I thought I'd make the letter public, to give an opportunity for you not to read it too.

Dearest Rosie,

I take up my pen this evening from our encampment on the Western Front, where we enjoy a moment of sojourn. The campaign that has led us here has taken us from Haliburton to Ottawa, and by airship to Vancouver and up the coast to the beautiful island of Haida Gwaii.

It is a peaceable place, and it seems wrong to bare arms here – mostly because of the sea breeze, which is cool on the elbows after the sun goes down. (See the jocularity I inserted there?)

The islanders are a kindly folk, generous in spirit, and thus far I have only been involved in a two minor skirmishes, the first with the overhead baggage compartment on the aeroplane ride being the bloodiest. I will not speak of it further.

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

The other was versus an obstinate snack machine in the Vancouver aerodrome, where I nearly lost an arm, plus the three loonies. My dignity was also mortally wounded in that event.

War is hell.

Our unit is commanded by General Perkins, that same gadabout folks back home once called "Parsimonious" for some reason. She is a capable leader, but her judgment is suspect, as evidenced by the fact that she has led us on several forced marches, at least one of which was with the intention of viewing some of the many bears that inhabit this island at uncomfortably close ranges.

I fear she harbours resentment towards me for being the one who nicknamed her Parsimonious – for on every bear viewing march she has tasked me to carry peanut butter and honey sandwiches. I need not tell you, Rosie, that bruins are drawn to such provisions.

As I write, I sit in my bunk with sore feet (which the General coldly refers to as a court-martialable offence) My bunkmate, a pleasant soul named Watt, is likewise suffering from an inflamed bunion, also brought about by the harsh podiatary conditions. I dare not mock her however, as she outranks me, and is prone to assigning me the unpleasant duty of messaging it.

Despite this, our campaign has proceeded without major incident. The exception being a salmon fishing expedition which I was ordered to embark upon to gain provisions for the unit. The seas were high and the captain said the boat was overloaded – a remark he made while staring intently at me. I eased his worries by jettisoning unimportant material, after turning various shades of green while riding the eight-foot swells. We caught five fish. Luckily, none from that spot.

Certain things here call to mind home. The bears, in particular, put one in mind of the folks at our local gas pumps before I left – albeit the bruins seem less irritable or prone to growling. Bald eagles are commonplace here too and not unlike the ones south of the border. I am told whenever they fly, they also wear the Canadian flag.

If the transports run on schedule, this campaign shall conclude Wednesday, and I shall return home weary, and never again yearn for adventure.

I must close this letter now. For I have been assigned bunion duty. Did I mention war is hell?

Your devoted correspondent, Dad

pic *of the* **past**

The Cooper Hunt Camp in West Guilford. Pictured, back row: Lorne, Al, Marie, Sid. Front Row: Elva, Stan, Earl, Louise, and Eleanor. /FILE

The healing power of community, connection, and love

THERE IS nothing quite like the feeling of belonging. To know that you matter. To feel seen, valued, and connected. To gather with others and discover that your presence makes a difference. In a world that can sometimes feel complicated and isolating, these simple gifts of community and connection become powerful medicine for the heart.

During the early days of COVID, when many of us were spending our days at home and feeling disconnected from one another, a small group of women began gathering online to practice qigong and quiet meditation together. Some of the women had been attending classes with me for many years. Others were newer to the practice. What united us was a shared desire to move, breathe, and stay connected during a challenging time.

What began as a necessity soon became something much deeper. Week after week, we showed up for one another. Through computer screens and eventually in person once again, we moved together, breathed together, and shared the joys and sorrows of our lives. We supported each other through sickness and health, through family challenges, personal losses, and uncertain times in the world.

Tales from the great

Lynda Shadbolt

Green meadow

Together, we cultivated strength and calmness. We learned how to be both soft and powerful. Each woman brought her own unique energy and vibration to the circle. Together, those individual gifts created something beautiful - a community rooted in kindness, compassion, and love.

There is a quiet magic that happens when people gather with open hearts. We begin to trust one another. We laugh together. We listen deeply. We celebrate victories and hold space for struggles. We become comfortable and at ease. We lift each other up.

This summer, our Circle of Qi continues to gather both online and in person, and we warmly invite others to join us. Our weekly practice is not only an opportunity to nurture our own well-being but also a chance to support a cause that is close to our hearts. We are raising funds for Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre, an organization that provides retreats and programs for people living with cancer and the caregivers who walk beside them. Several members of our group have experienced cancer firsthand and understand the profound impact these retreats can have.

Many people from Haliburton County and beyond have benefited from the support, healing, connection, and respite that Brooksong offers. What makes these retreats especially remarkable is that they are offered at no cost to participants. They are gifts freely given - made possible through the generosity of a caring community. Our group is just one of many teams participating in Brooksong's Annual Summer Fundraiser. Across the community, people are moving, creating, connecting, and sharing their talents in countless creative ways to raise funds and awareness. Together, we are weaving a tapestry of support that reminds us all of an important truth: None of us is meant to walk alone.

Whether through a gentle qigong movement, a shared conversation, a donation, or an act of kindness, every contribution matters. Every connection strengthens the circle. As we move through the summer months, may we remember the healing power of community. May we continue to create spaces where people feel welcomed, valued, and loved. And may we recognize that when we come together with open hearts, we become part of something far greater than ourselves. We become a community of hope.

To get on an email list to receive information about upcoming Circle of Qi programs please contact claire@brooksong.ca or check out brooksong.ca.

Some milestones deserve a moment of reflection

Community Kitchen Reaches 100,000 Meals

SIRCH Community Services is marking a significant milestone this month as its Community Kitchen program reaches 100,000 meals prepared and delivered since 2020.

That number represents far more than food.

Since 2020, meals have been prepared in SIRCH's kitchen and distributed free of charge to people facing food insecurity, financial hardship, isolation, health challenges, housing instability, and other circumstances that make everyday life more difficult.

Each meal is thoughtfully planned, prepared, and packaged to be nutritious, practical, and easy to heat at home. For some recipients, it may be the best meal they eat that day.

Reaching 100,000 meals did not happen by accident.

It began with a simple belief: that no one in our community should have to face difficult times alone.

SIRCH brought that vision to life, but it has only been possible because so many others chose to be part of it. Cooks, volunteers, food donors, drivers, staff, funders, community partners, businesses, service clubs, third-party fundraisers, and individual donors have all played a role in ensuring a neighbour had a meal when they needed one.

Behind every meal are many hands.

A cook prepared it. Volunteers packaged it. Partner organizations helped get it where it needed to go. Donors and supporters helped cover the cost. Together, they created something much bigger than a meal.

While we are proud of this milestone, we also recognize what it represents. Too many people continue to struggle with the rising cost of housing, food, utilities, transportation, and other basic necessities.

The need remains. So does the willingness of this community to respond.

Today, we celebrate 100,000 meals … we celebrate the people behind them! And we recommit ourselves to the work ahead: solving real problems, strengthening rural communities, and creating connection and resilience - together.

About SIRCH Community Services

SIRCH Community Services is a registered charity serving Haliburton County and North Hastings. Through food security programs, community development initiatives, social enterprises, volunteer engagement, and collaborative partnerships, SIRCH works to solve real problems, strengthen rural communities, and create connection and resilience together.

Quick Facts:

-100,000 meals delivered since 2020

-1,750 meals currently distributed each month

-14 community distribution partners

-Supported by volunteers, donors, small grants, social enterprise revenue, and community partnerships

Submitted

The staff and volunteers of SIRCH Community Kitchen gather around to celebrate preparing 100,000 meals since 2020. The organization recognizes the ongoing need for meals locally. /submitted

letters to the editor

Fabulous Anne of Green Gables!

To the Editor,

We thoroughly enjoyed this performance - a part of this year's Highlands Summer Festival season.

All through it we kept thinking how lucky we are to live in a community that has such wonderful performances and such a great theatre to see them in. All the actors are great and most of them are local that we see often in the stores or on main street. This community is indeed blessed to have such wonderful, professional theatre to enjoy.

Jim and Marilyn Frost,
Haliburton

Just wondering...

To the Editor,

Is it possible? Is Steve Galea a former writer for the long-running *Seinfeld* TV series ... or *Saturday Night Live* ... or both??

'Cause the guy's seriously funny in the same vein as those two series.

In his June 30th column, he begins with "THE OTHER day I was attacked by a lawn chair". I'm immediately roaring with laughter at the utter ridiculousness of this sentence, and my wife Janice exclaims "WHA-A-AT!?" "The man's a comic genius", I reply, "and it just keeps getting funnier!"

Keep it up Mr. Galea. Keep it up. Please!

A fan,
René Benoit

Minden Memories

The E.A. Stinson Livery service stood at what is now the corner of Minden's Main Street and North Water Street. Arthur Stinson is seen here with his daughter, Alida Stinson-Wingate, obviously dressed in her Sunday finery. Alida, who lived well into her 90s, enjoyed visits to Gull Lake at Deep Bay. This photo, taken at the turn of the century, shows the home in the background which still stands today as Gambell's Antiques and Nostalgia store. Our thanks to Ruth Stinson-Max for the loan of this picture. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

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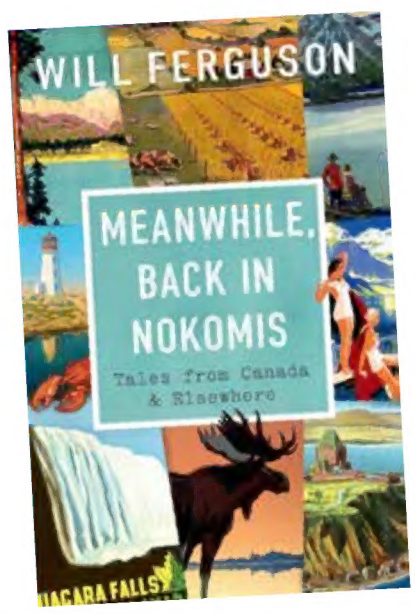
Book of the Week



From the Arctic Circle to the mud pools of New Zealand, Will Ferguson has spent a career chasing stories that reveal as much about Canada as they do about the wider world. In Meanwhile, Back in Nokomis, he gathers his funniest, sharpest, and most memorable essays, taking readers from rural Alberta to the windswept shores of Sable Island and everywhere in between.

Blending travel writing with personal reflection, Ferguson explores the quirks of Canadian culture, the realities of life as a writer, and the questions that matter most — from national identity to the country's most Canadian condiment. Warm, witty, and unmistakably Canadian, this collection celebrates a life shaped by curiosity, humour, and the joy of getting lost.

Meanwhile, *Back in Nokomis* by Will Ferguson is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library. Visit haliburtonlibrary.ca to place a hold or learn more.

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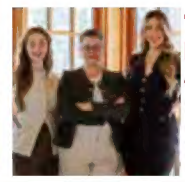

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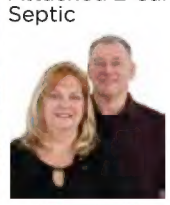

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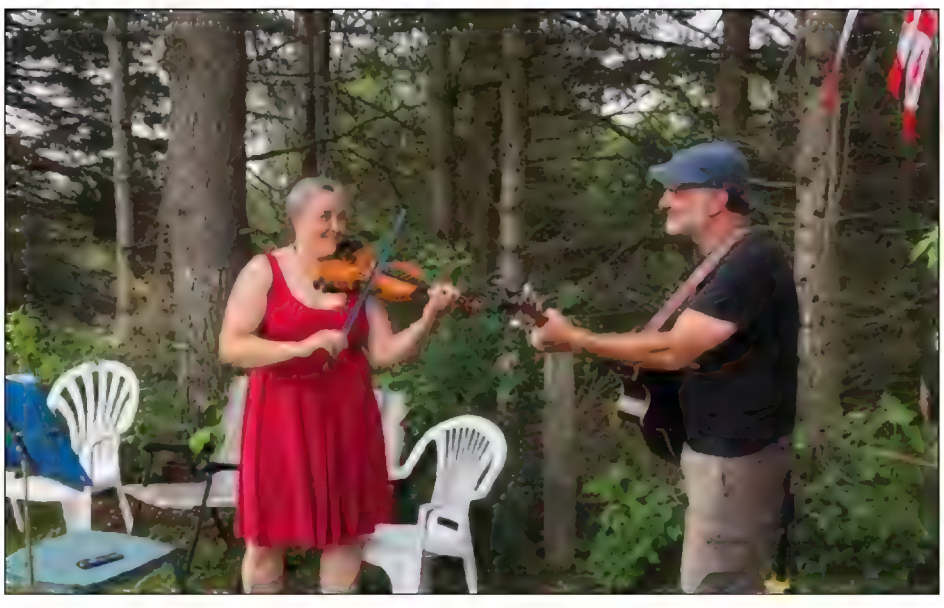
Celebrating CANADA DAY

Canada Day in Minden was celebrated by thousands, who ventured into the hot day for the fishing derby, duck races, flower crowns, tasty treats, and local vendors. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre hosted free ice cream, alongside a number of activities and games for all ages. /Photos by Emily Stonehouse and Thomas Smith

The annual fireworks display at the West Guilford Community Centre. Many attended the evening event, with temperatures becoming a little more bearable after the sun had set, taking in the fireworks over Pine Lake. Pictured, volunteers prepare for the evening show on Canada Day. /Photos submitted by David Zilstra

Gooderham Canada Day was a busy place, with live music, fireworks, fresh food, and plenty of red and white outfits. /IVY KATZ staff

Wilberforce had a nice Canada Day with live music and tributes to the past through art and history. /IVY KATZ staff



The Haliburton Ladies golf league had their annual Canada Day golf game, with best dressed and decorated carts awards. Best dressed was Jennifer Downham with the Cat in the Hat look. Best decorated cart was Janet Consack and Bonnie Foster, with a jug of maple syrup, a beaver and a moose. Closest to the hole on hole 11 was Barb Winn, and the winner of the scramble challenge was Laraine Forgrave, Jennifer Downham and Janis Parker with a score of 72. /submitted by Cheryl Howe

Compassion first: offering support during cancer journey

IVY KATZ

Journalist

Haliburton County has many hidden gems. For a community of this small stature, at least one of those gems can be associated with the caring and compassionate people who live here and support each other in good and in tough times.

Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre offers top-notch psycho-social care for people living with cancer and their caregivers at no cost. Yes, hard to believe, but true. Brooksong offers its services at no cost to those looking for support.

"Offering our programs at no cost is part of the healing gift we hope to offer," said Barb Smith-Morrison, executive director since 2020. "No one should have to wonder whether they can afford the support they need while living with cancer."

In addition to retreats and online programs, Brooksong also hosts a volunteer-led quilting program called A Warm Hug from the Highlands, that provides quilts for local and seasonal residents living with cancer.

"It's also very important to us that the Haliburton County community knows that all of our programs, including the retreats, are for local and seasonal residents," said Smith-Morrison. "We have a long waitlist for our programs, but we prioritize local and seasonal residents. We're also working to make our programs more accessible to people from historically underserved communities and to create a place where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and supported."

"It takes intention, time and care for people to truly feel seen and heard," said Smith-Morrison. This commitment may be one of the key ingredients in Brooksong's life-enriching and healing approach.

Firstly, as anyone who has been a caregiver knows, the supports for caregivers tend to be low. Secondly, the dynamics that affect people living with cancer are extremely varied.

"We are continuously learning and evolving; our programs are emotionally full, even for facilitators," said Smith-Morrison. The four-day cancer support retreat runs from Thursday evening to Sunday afternoon, for 12 people.

Held on the Brooksong premises off Highway 118, people with cancer and their caregivers are treated to specialized, evidence-informed modalities ranging from expressive arts to nature connection to yoga, and "magical little workshops" as Cheryl, a Brooksong alumni described it. Guests enjoy a menu of nutritious, home-cooked food in a peaceful environment that is nothing short of inspiring.

"We are always inviting feedback, ensuring the people in the programs are the ones shaping the programs," noted Smith- Morrison. This could be another reason the programming touches so many hearts.

"Some people come on retreat without people in their life to support them. Other people have shared that they go through their cancer journey alone and do not tell anyone they have cancer," said Smith- Morrison.

Smith-Morrison is quick to emphasize the fact that Haliburton County is also blessed to have excellent imaging and diagnostic services that support early cancer detection and navigation and support through the healthcare system. Brooksong is one piece in the puzzle for whole-person cancer care.

Compassionate Hearts support group is born

Drawing on their own experiences with cancer, a group of local residents, some Brooksong retreat alumni, joined with Brooksong and Haliburton Highlands Health Services to design and launch Compassionate Hearts, a monthly community cancer support circle. I recently sat down with two of those individuals, Barb G. and Cheryl R. "Compassionate Hearts developed within the community. We are doing this not as experts, we are doing this as members of the community who are living with cancer," said Cheryl, a cancer survivor and one of the founders.

Barb G., another one of the co-founders, shared that she recognizes caregivers also needs to be cared for. The fact that she needed to sleep so much during treatment was extremely hard on her family, she said. Only recently had she and her support person talked about what it had been like for him. Even to this day, when she naps, she gets asked 'why are you sleeping?' but she understands now that this is her family's way of expressing their fear, their anxiety over her health. This why Compassionate Hearts has a second support circle that is for those caring for people with cancer.

Barb Smith Morrison (centre) executive director of Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Support with two local alumni, Cheryl R. and Barb G. (left and right, respectively) who have helped found the Compassionate Hearts Support Circle for local residents living with cancer and those who are caring for loved ones with cancer. /IVY KATZ staff

Almost everybody has been touched by cancer in some way, through a relative, a friend, if not themselves. In Canada, the Canadian Medical Association estimates 42 per cent of people will receive a cancer diagnoses in their lifetime, with an average of 696 diagnosed everyday.

It is clear there is something very special about this place, but as a reporter, I want to hear it first hand, so I ask what makes Brooksong so special? "To let go of fear, that's what we learned here," said Cheryl. "I suddenly felt that I wasn't an odd-ball, there was an acceptance," added Barb.

Both women spoke about the unique challenges of living with cancer and how validating it is to be with others walking a similar path. They reflected on the energy it takes to sometimes protect their spouses and children from the weight of their own fears and emotions.

"We often hear that people living with cancer end up carrying the added burden of helping others cope with their diagnosis," added Smith-Morrison. "We try to keep all of these dynamics in mind when we create our program spaces."

It occurs to me that it would be very difficult to go back to reality after such a peaceful, healing experience, so I ask if that is the case.

"After the retreat, we have to go back to a space with others who did not have that healing experience. It was really hard. We had to ask ourselves how we reconnect with the world again but continue to hold onto the peace we found?" said Barb G.

Compassionate Hearts is moving into it's third month this July. The groups, which are open to local residents, meet the third Thursday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. at Brooksong. To sign up, contact Brooksong at 705-754-2966 or HHHS at 705-457-2941. These groups are currently for adults.

Annual Peer-to-Peer Fundraiser happening now

Because Brooksong's retreats and cancer support programs are offered at no cost to participants, the organization relies almost entirely on donations and community fundraising to sustain its work.

Its annual summer Fundraiser, now underway, is Brooksong's largest fundraising campaign of the year, and plays a vital role in ensuring people living with cancer and their caregivers can continue to access support free of charge.

> ***"It takes intention, time and care for people to truly feel seen and heard."***
>
> — Barb Smith–Morrison, Executive Director of Brooksong Retreat and Cancer Support Centre

"For two months each summer, our community comes together to raise both funds and awareness through a peer-to-peer campaign," said Smith-Morrison. "People choose a way to move. Create. Connect. Then invite their friends, family and colleagues to support their efforts. Our theme this year is No One Walks Alone, because no one should have to face cancer alone."

To support Brooksong's Summer Fundraiser, visit BrooksongSummerFundraiser.ca, send an e-transfer to info@brooksong.ca or call 705-754-2966 for information about mailing or dropping off a donation. Brooksong can also be found on social media for campaign updates and stories from participants.

"There is something magical that happens when we know we are not alone," said Barb G.

"I feel like I have a purpose ... still," said Cheryl, after pausing for thought. "Life is always evolving; changing, our purposes in life change." I feel certain the plural of "purpose" was intentional.

Listening to these women, I realized that just because one life phase might change or end, it does not necessarily mean failure or loss; this applies to us all as we move through our personal life-phases. The wisdom I found in my short time with these women is applicable to all of us, and I am reminded, we are not alone.

Built on love: dream that became Snowflake Meadows Rescue

DANIELLE CARNEY

Guest Columnist

Every morning, Kristyn Begbie looks out over the pasture where her horses graze and the farmland and forest beyond, feeling deep gratitude for her family and the animals she helps to save.

Snowflake Meadows Rescue - informally started in 2019 and established as a not-for-profit in 2021 - sits on 14 acres near Ritchie Falls in Minden. A long dirt drive opens onto a vast, flat landscape of pastures, meadows and farmed fields, creating a peaceful backdrop for a farm brimming with life.

Horse paddocks and other animal enclosures surround the prominent traditional Dutch-style gambrel barn, with its weathered vertical wood siding, block foundation, and standing-seam reflective grey metal roof.

Chickens roam freely. Pigs root contentedly in the soil. Goats, alpacas and donkeys bask in the sunshine. From their generous enclosure, peacocks fill the air with trumpet-like honks that evoke an unexpected feeling of the tropics.

Six working dogs patrol the property, keeping watch over the farm animals and alerting the family and volunteers when guests arrive. A few are keen to greet visitors with tails wagging in hopes of a good belly rub. They are also known to move notoriously slowly for cars that come and go, as if purposefully maintaining a gentler pace on the land.

Opposite the barn and other animal dwellings stands a simple farmhouse home to Begbie, her husband AJ, their three boys, a loyal pack of dogs (both their own and rescue intakes) and in the winter months, an eight-year-old, 50 pound Sulcata tortoise named Mortimer.

When Begbie purchased the property from Sue and Bill Little in 2016, she knew it was the beginning of a childhood dream becoming reality. It became a refuge for her horse, a home for herself and son Coltyn, and the land where her family and rescue mission would grow.

Snowflake Meadows owner, Kristyn Begbie, has been working towards her dream of building a kennel to help as many animals as she can. /DANIELLE CARNEY guest columnist

Dogs are welcome inside the house with the family and have extensive fenced outdoor areas to play and lounge. On Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, doggy daycare operates in full swing. Though scaled back in recent years to prioritize rehabilitation and training of her rescue animals, daycare and boarding remain ways for Begbie to generate income.

Her husband, AJ, runs his own established business, Stone EnCounters, which sells and installs quartz and granite countertops as well as full kitchens and tiling. "He loves me and he's definitely every girl's dream guy," Begbie says. Snowflake Meadows was already in full swing when the couple met, and AJ knew going in that the rescue did not only operate during regular business hours. He has adapted his life to include all that a rescue involves while running a business and raising a family. When asked how AJ feels about it all, Begbie is comically matter-of-fact: "Well, he keeps coming home!"

Her now 17-year-old son Coltyn is a bona fide dog lover. He helps his mom with farm chores and can sometimes be found doing nail trimmings with her at local pet shops and helping out at Snowflake Meadows events.

Begbie's other two boys, Killian and Aerys, are five and a half and three and a half. These free-spirited, nature-saturated kids, when not at forest school, can be found romping around the farm together. Begbie keeps a watchful eye on her wild ones, but also has their nanny, Stasi, there to help.

Stasi, a Shiloh Shepherd, is the dedicated and watchful care giver of these two boys. He does not leave their side, from the boys' first stirrings in the morning until they are tucked into bed at night. His undeniable devotion reveals a depth, awareness and loyalty that speaks to why dogs find their way into so many hearts and homes.

It is this unconditional love, echoed in her own upbringing, that drew Begbie to animals from an early age.

In 2000, at the age of nine, Begbie began volunteering with her aunt Christine at the Toronto Humane Society. She recalls the building as industrial, filled with a multitude of animals divided into rooms and sections by species. She was surprised by the sheer volume of animals in need and noted that dumped dogs and cats were sometimes found in the alley outside the doors. "It opened my eyes to

see LOSS page 14

Notice
(Applicant – Tang/Le)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of an Original Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Salerno Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given, pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday the 14 th of July, 2026** at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of Original Shore Road Allowance in front of Lot 3, Concession 1, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11204, made by **P.A. Miller Surveying Ltd. completed July 22, 2025.** *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey 19R-11204 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 30 th day of June, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Notice
(Applicant –Gubbels)

In the matter of the *Municipal Act* and in the matter of a proposed By-law of the Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands to close, stop-up and convey certain portions of a Shore Road Allowance along the shore of **Little Glamor Lake**, more particularly hereinafter described.

Notice Is Hereby Given,pursuant to the Municipal Act, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass at a virtual meeting on **Tuesday the 14th day of July 2026** at 9:30 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of the Road Allowance in Front of Lot 2 and Part of the Road Allowance in front of Lot 3, Concessions 14 and 13, Township of Monmouth, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Parts 1 and 2 on Plan of Survey 19R-11245 made by **JBF Surveyors completed January 9, 2026**. *(Part 2 being the flooded portion to be retained by the Municipality of Highlands East).*

The Plan of Survey 19R-11245 is available to you for inspection by you making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above-described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or e-mail the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

And Take Further Notice that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

Dated at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 30th day of June, 2026.

Robyn Rogers, Municipal Clerk
Box 295, 2249 Loop Road,
WILBERFORCE, ON K0L 3C0
rrogers@highlandseast.ca
(705) 448-2981

Municipality of Dysart et al

In the Heart of the Haliburton Highlands

FORM 6
SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER
Municipal Act, 2001
Ontario Regulation 181/03, Municipal Tax Sale Rules

SALE OF LAND BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE

Take Notice that tenders are invited for the purchase of the lands described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on July 22, 2026, at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton Ontario.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day as soon as possible after 3:00 p.m. at the Dysart et al Municipal Office, 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton.

Description of Lands:
1. Roll No. 46 24 010 000 45100 0000; 1701 - 1741 WIGAMOG RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39252-0140 (LT); PT LT 2-3 CON 6 DYSART PT 1, 2, 19R8110; T/W H243561 & H127169; T/W H263271; DYSART ET AL; File No. 24-38
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $841,000
Minimum tender amount: $110,337.04

2. Roll No. 46 24 011 000 20200 0000; 1025 MEADOWVIEW RD., HALIBURTON; PIN 39172-0071 (LT); PT LT 14 CON 7 DYSART AS IN H86046; S/T H32659; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-06
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $293,000
Minimum tender amount: $20,176.08

3. ~~Roll No. 46 24 013 000 13800 0000; 1068 HURRICANE LAKE DR., HALIBURTON; PIN 39185-0031 (LT); PT LT 6 CON 13 DYSART PT 3 19R904 EXCEPT PT 1 19R1162; T/W H113633 EXCEPT THE EASEMENT THEREIN RE PT 2 19R1162; DYSART ET AL; File No. 25-20~~
~~According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $128,000~~
~~**Minimum tender amount: $13,907.90**~~

4. Roll No. 46 24 040 000 35300 0000; DYSART ET AL; PIN 39141-0342 (LT); PT LT 8 CON 3 GUILFORD AS IN H127005; UNITED TOWNSHIPS OF DYSART, DUDLEY, HARCOURT, GUILFORD, HARBURN, BRUTON, HAVELOCK, EYRE AND CLYDE; File No. 25-35
According to the last returned assessment roll, the assessed value of the land is $82,000
Minimum tender amount: $11,854.00

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit of at least 20 per cent of the tender amount, which deposit shall be made by way of a certified cheque/bank draft/ money order payable to the municipality.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the lands to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchasers. The assessed value, according to the last returned assessment roll, may or may not be representative of the current market value of the property.

Pursuant to the Prohibition on the Purchase of Residential Property by Non-Canadians Act, S.C. 2022, c. 10, s. 235 (the "Act"), effective January 1, 2023, it is prohibited for a non-Canadian to purchase, directly or indirectly, any residential property, as those terms are defined in the legislation. Contraventions of the Act are punishable by a fine, and offending purchasers may be ordered to sell the residential property.

The municipality assumes no responsibility whatsoever for ensuring bidders/tenderers comply with the Act, and makes no representations regarding same. Prospective bidders/ tenderers are solely responsible for ensuring compliance with the Act and are advised to seek legal advice before participating in this sale.

Transfers of properties that contain at least one and not more than six single family residences and are transferred to non-residents of Canada or foreign entities, are subject to the Province's Non-Resident Speculation Tax (NRST).

This sale is governed by the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and any taxes that may be applicable, such as a land transfer tax and HST.

TAKE NOTICE: Where a refund is claimed by a qualifying first-time Homebuyer under the Land Transfer Tax Act, the Municipality requires the purchaser to retain legal counsel to complete the transfer.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser. A copy of the prescribed form of tender is available on the website of the Government of Ontario Central Forms Repository under the listing for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

Crystal Bliedung
Tax Collector
The Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart,
Dudley, Harcourt, Guilford, Harburn, Bruton, Havelock, Eyre and Clyde
135 Maple Avenue
P.O. Box 389
Haliburton ON K0M 1S0
(705) 457-1740 Ext 639
cbliedung@dysartetal.ca www.dysartetal.ca

Loss and learning for Begbie

from page 13

realize that this is a really big need, and what would I do with my life if I didn't help these animals," she says.

Begbie started a dog-walking business in her neighbourhood in Newmarket, Ontario the same year. She charged $3 per half-hour and $6 per hour. This led to a dog-sitting service for people on her street, with her parents' permission.

By 12, with her parents' support and savings from those jobs, she was taking in strays, caring for them, and finding them loving homes after spay/neuter and vetting. "I grew up with love and it was one of the best feelings, so why not share it with them when I've got so much," she said.

Her parents, Craig and Geraldine, were unwavering supporters. They saw their daughter had a passion and a plan and let her lead the way.

At age eight, Begbie, with her parents in tow, started horseback riding every weekend at stables in nearby Pefferlaw, Ontario. By age 16 she was ready for a horse of her own. She fell in love with a racetrack mare named Essie and struck a deal on her own with Sue from Sandelwood Stables. They agreed she would make $500 payments each payday from her part-time job at Toys "R" Us until the full $2,250 was paid. Her parents agreed to part-board the horse so Begbie could ride her three times per week, including a lesson. She also saved $3,000 as a fund for veterinary bills. After paying off the horse, Begbie split full board payments with her parents.

At age 18, an unexpected turn came. Begbie gave birth to her first son, Coltyn. Though young and inexperienced, she took on the role of mother with her family's support. She found work as an assistant manager at PACE Cardiology in Newmarket when Coltyn was two-years-old, and continued in the role for the next seven years.

Then came profound loss. On April 1, 2013, her mother was diagnosed with pancreatic and gallbladder cancer and given six months to live. Family and friends attended a celebration-of-life gathering that Christmas. Soon afterward, her mother went into rapid decline, left palliative care and returned home, where she was cared for by her family until her death on Feb. 22, 2014.

Devastated, her father put the house up for sale and moved to Haliburton in 2015. Begbie and Coltyn moved to their own apartment in Newmarket, where she continued working at PACE Cardiology. In 2016, during a visit to Haliburton, her father and Kristyn's then-girlfriend went for a ride in his recently purchased Z06 427 Limited Edition 2008 Corvette, his dream car. Ten minutes later, Begbie received a call: they had been in a serious accident. The car had flipped; her father was unconscious. Both were taken to Minden Hospital and airlifted out. Her girlfriend suffered a broken collarbone but was otherwise unhurt. Her father was hospitalized with extensive injuries and, sadly, died four months later.

"Every day I wake up and I'm so grateful to them because not only did they give me an amazing life while they were here, they are essentially what helped me start my dream," Begbie says.

In 2025, Snowflake Meadows rehomed 271 dogs, 59 cats, six birds and 20 fish, while incurring $103,269.75 in veterinary costs, a 20 per cent increase from the previous year. 2026 has been equally busy. The rescue has animals on site and with foster families, and Begbie says the new indoor/outdoor kennel will house another 10 rescue dogs on site when complete.

see TARGET page 15

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
PROPOSED ZONING BY-LAW AMENDMENT
TO ZONING BY-LAW 2005-120 OF THE
MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

- **DATE:** **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**
- **TIME:** **9:05 AM**
- **LOCATION:** **Take notice that the public meeting for zoning by-law amendment will take place in Council Chambers in the Municipal Office 135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario and in electronic format using Zoom. The meeting will be live streamed to YouTube.**

Application:

Lands of Waind and Taylor-Waind – File No. D14-ZB-2026-009

Purpose and Effect: The subject property does not have frontage on or direct access to a publicly maintained road. The purpose and effect of this amendment is to rezone the lands to limit their use to passive recreation and conservation activities, thereby protecting the property's natural features and restricting future development. The zoning of the subject lands will be changed from the Rural Type 1L (RU1L) Zone to the Open Space (OS) Zone.

Location: Civic Address – Not assigned, legally described as Part Lot 29, Concession 12 in the Geographic Township of Guilford, now in the Municipality of Dysart et al.

For more information about electronic meetings and public participation in an electronic meeting, contact the Planning Technician at twilson@dysartetal.ca,.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THIS MATTER INCLUDING INFORMATION ABOUT APPEAL RIGHTS: Contact the Planning and Land Information Department by appointment during regular office hours (8:30 A.M-4:30 P.M, Monday to Friday), or by contacting Kris Orsan, Manager of Planning at korsan@dysartetal.ca.

Dated at the Township of Dysart, this 7th day of July 2026.

Kris Orsan, CPT,
Manager of Planning
Planning and Land Information
Municipality of Dysart et al
135 Maple Avenue, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705-457-1740 ext. 626
E-mail: korsan@dysartetal.ca

Target amount raised for kennel

from page 14

Just as the aftermath of COVID-19 brought a spike in intakes at shelters and rescues across the province and country, the rising cost of living in recent years has led to a notable increase in pet surrenders. People losing housing or unable to afford pet food and veterinary bills are major factors. Other common reasons for intakes include behavioural issues, family separations and deaths.

There are inherent risks in saving abandoned, traumatized or abused animals, and Begbie positions herself front and centre when assessing new intakes. "The new dogs that come in, I handle and nobody else, for at least the first two weeks, until I can figure out if they are going to safely come in and out of crates, if they are going to be aggressive under different circumstances," she says. For initial meet-and-greets with the new intake Begbie selects a few of her most balanced dogs to set a calm precedent in a separate area from the others. "Pack mentality is that they keep each other in order, and 95 per cent of the time the new dog abides by the pack. If you introduce dogs correctly, they will take care of their own", says Begbie.

The pack dynamic changed recently when the group lost its leader, Maximus Prime, a large Shiloh Shepherd, in late May. "I've had to step up a lot since Max passed away, because he was my sheriff. I've had to step up quite a bit to manage everybody so that the dogs are balanced. I can put all the dogs out together in my presence because they know I'm here," Begbie says.

Even under difficult circumstances, Begbie finds the work rewarding and remains unwavering in her commitment. "I feel I grew up as a child that was misunderstood, so I feel like I connect with a lot of dogs in that way," she says. Luckily, Begbie is not alone. More than 30 volunteers support the work. "They are all big-hearted people that help out any way they can to help the animals."

"Peggy has been here for eight years and she is a godsend. She has been through all the rough terrain with us, the ups and the downs, and she's like a grandmother to my kids. I rely on Peggy a lot," Begbie says. Other volunteers come more or less frequently. Lisa, Karen, and Jenny come weekly. Some work behind the scenes. Cathy does the accounting. Mikenna helps run events. Kevin manages the website and much of the social media. "They are all amazing", says Begbie.

Snowflake Meadows works with Ontario shelters and other rescues to redistribute animals and give them the best chance at a new life. Provincial shelters post on the private Facebook group Empty Ontario Shelters when a dog needs to be removed to prevent euthanasia; whether because they are running out of room, for behavioural reasons or because the dog is declining in the shelter environment.

"As good as shelters are for stray dogs to give them a chance, it is such a hard environment for a dog to live in," Begbie says. "If you walk into a shelter, especially the ones where they are just in kennels and there is no indoor/outdoor run, you can't get away from that obnoxiously loud, ear-piercing barking that bounces off the concrete walls and it will drive a dog mental. It is hard for me to stand it. So they fail in the kennel because you can't really give them a proper assessment unless you take them out. That said, a lot of the shelters in the province are amazing and have a doggy day out so they can get proper assessments."

> ***"I feel I grew up as a child that was misunderstood, so I feel like I connect with a lot of dogs in that way ...***
>
> — Kristyn Begbie, Snowflake Meadows

Shelters and rescues work well together because they share the same focus. According to Begbie, "The ultimate goal is to help as many dogs as possible find loving families to join."

Adoptions are thorough: applications, references, virtual visits, interviews, and in-person meetings. Spay/neuter is mandatory before ownership transfers."And if after we go through all of that, if I don't feel the vibe during the in-person visit, I'll still break your heart for the sake of the dog," Begbie says.

Unapologetic about the process, Begbie is strict to ensure the welfare of her animals.

Her messages are direct: Seek help early for behavioural issues. Stop backyard breeding.

Begbie also notes that many people dump dogs off at shelters because Ontario shelters cannot say no to strays. "But just because you are bringing your dog to a shelter doesn't mean that they are not dying every week. I have four dogs - Orla, Macchiato, Peony and Tokyo - they were all going to be euthanized because of space, just space, not because they were behavioural dogs."

As the only animal rescue of its kind in Haliburton County, and with no shortage of surrendered, abandoned and abused animals needing rescue services, Begbie encourages the community to get involved through donations and to consider becoming a foster family. Just last week a generous donor contributed $4,000, covering the remaining amount needed for the new 10-unit indoor-outdoor kennel. In total, Snowflake Meadows has now raised $94,000 toward building this facility, meeting their fundraising goal.

For as long as Begbie can remember, her family would wager on the day and time of the first snowfall of the season. This tradition lasted until the winter of 2014, just before her mother passed away. Her mom won the bet on the date and time that year, though it came after her passing. "Losing my parents is one of the biggest obstacles I've ever had to endure with love and loss. It taught me a lot," Begbie says.

She intended to name her property Snowflake Meadows to honour her love for her family before it became a rescue. She says the name is a natural extension of the rescue's core meaning.

"Each one of these animals, not just dogs but cats, birds, pigs, everything that comes in, is their own unique snowflake, their own fingerprint," says Begbie.

A resilient, driven, and dedicated woman, Kristyn Begbie remains resolute in her commitment to animal welfare. The land she stands on, the sweeping vistas that inspire her each morning, and every animal she rescues all strengthen the very foundation of Snowflake Meadows.

LifeLabs looking at next steps

from page 1

LifeLabs shared that the staff from the Haliburton site have been redeployed to the Minden location, and patients are being redirected there for service. They noted that they are currently exploring alternative options for a temporary location in Haliburton, and while they do not have a timeline for opening, will continue to provide updates as they become available.

"We remain committed to upholding the highest safety standards across our facilities and are actively working with the municipality and its consultants to better understand the issue and assess potential options to support a return to operations as soon as reasonably possible," shared the media team.

While the issue hasn't returned as an agenda item for Dysart council since the April meeting, Councillor Pat Casey shared that investigations around the smell are ongoing. "We're working on some air quality tests," he confirmed during a recent interview. "And that newest round of data will hopefully tell us what to do."

Casey noted that the other businesses in the building are operating, which makes the isolated issue in LifeLabs unique. "We will install some new equipment and go from there," he said. "We do know (the closure) is a big inconvenience for everyone."

Puppy yoga comes to county

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

While the world may seem heavy sometimes, at least there are puppies.

Gabriella Castillo is a fairly new resident to the Haliburton Highlands, but she has jumped into the community headfirst.

Working remotely for her day job, Castillo has also dove into opportunities with the Haliburton Highlands Fish Hatchery, the Miskwabi Area Community Association, and, her biggest passion project, Goldendoodle home breeding.

As a lifelong lover of dogs, Castillo started looking into breeding in 2024, "They're my pets first," she said, "we all got so attached to them."

While most breeders commit to four litters, Castillo won't do more than two. Her current dog, Skye, a therapy and family pup, just had her second litter of seven. "We're not a traditional kennel," explained Castillo. "They're with me, in my home, I'm literally with the dogs every day, sleeping next to the puppies every night."

And slowly but surely, she's getting the puppies ready for the real world.

One of the ways she has chosen to do that is by offering puppy yoga through Reform + Restore Wellness Hub. "Right after I moved here, my dad passed away suddenly," said Castillo, "so I needed to find a way to find my community. I started going to Reform + Restore, and I thought we could do something there."

With the sessions led by yoga instructor Lori Sharp, the classes will include gentle movement and stretching, alongside a happy dose of puppy fun. Once participants are warmed up, Castillo lets the dogs into the space, where they play, engage, and snuggle up to the class.

One of the pups getting ready for puppy yoga at the end of the month. /submitted

And while this sounds greatly beneficial to the participant, Castillo shared that it's mutual. "Puppy yoga is their first chance to meet new people," she said. "New faces, new smells, new space. It's all part of a training program for them."

With the four sessions kicking off on July 25, registration in advance is highly recommended, and can be booked at www.reformrestore.ca/schedule.

"We're officially bringing puppy yoga to Haliburton," said Castillo. "It's so much fun."

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Stanhope Museum receives paranormal investigation

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Readers may remember the Paranormal Seekers' investigation of the Dominion Hotel in Aug. 2024.

On Saturday, June 27, the Paranormal Seekers returned to Haliburton County.

This time, to investigate the Stanhope Museum. Originally home to local council chambers, the museum houses over 100 years of history in both artifacts and documents.

Artifacts that some say are filled with the energy of those that used them in the past.

"We learned about the museum through simple research and emails from the public asking if we had ever visited or investigated it," said Rachel Cross, lead researcher of the Paranormal Seekers. "When someone reaches out to us with a location, we always take the time to research it and attempt to contact them to inquire if they are interested in having us come out."

A small, one room building, the Paranormal Seekers spent three and a half hours investigating the museum. Four team members were present for the investigation.

"We went in with zero knowledge about any prior paranormal activity," said Rachel. "This helps us avoid a biased investigation. It's also refreshing not to know any of the paranormal experiences so we aren't looking for them."

During the investigation, the Paranormal Seekers used a variety of ghost hunting equipment including EMF trip wire, K2 meter, paranormal music box, REM pods, the dead bell, ghost box, spirit talker and the Flux 2 Triangle. Video cameras and audio recorders were also used during the investigation.

"We always let the location tell us when it's time to leave," said Cross.

Cross reports that the investigation went very well for the Seekers.

"There was definitely some interesting communication regarding some items in the museum," she said.

However, the organization says they cannot report any findings before the approval of the museum's committee.

"They are very interested in seeing and hearing our findings," assures Cross.

Ultimately, the Paranormal Seekers hope that their investigations draw more attention to the places they visit, especially public places like museum.

Based in Durham Region, the Paranormal Seekers have travelled all over Ontario and New York to conduct their investigations.

"We are living in a time where an entire generation of people may never step foot into a physical museum," said Cross. "We have found that the spooky and creepy aspects of locations can be a big draw for visitors."

Conducting their investigations in a respectful manner, they hope that their investigations evoke interest and not fear.

"Past locations indicated they saw an increase in visitors after we investigated or hosted an event as they became more intrigued about the location," said Cross.

The Paranormal Seekers website can be visited at theparanormalseekrs.ca and they also have a YouTube channel @ theparanromalseekerscanada. The organization frequently hosts events for the public, with more information found on their website.

Canoe FM Day

July 4 was declared the first official Canoe FM Day in Haliburton County. The day coincided with the annual Canoe FM Radiothon, raising funds for the volunteer-driven, community radio station. All-day programming, silent auctions, and plenty of local music made the weekend a success. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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No trash, only treasure

The New to You Community Yard Sale was held on Saturday, July 4. Dozens of residents set up sale booths with bits and pieces, drawing large crowds to the annual event. With antiques, vintage pieces, and second-hand clothing, there was something for everyone.
/TIM YANO staff photographer

www.haliburtonchamber.com 705-457-4700 admin@haliburtonchamber.com

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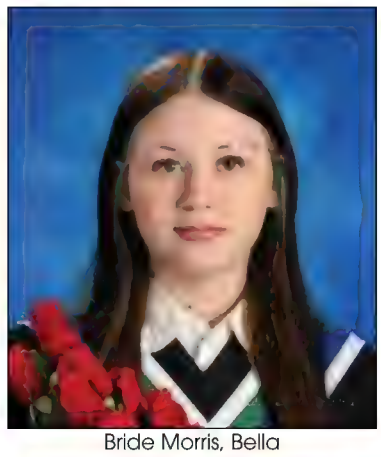
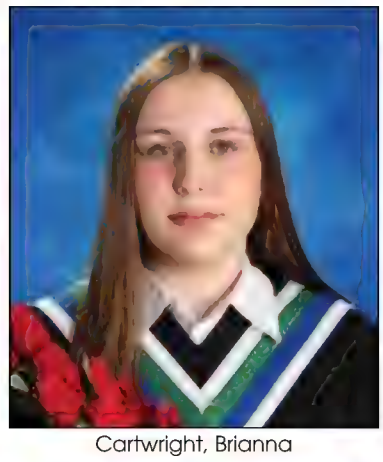
2026 Archie Stouffer Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

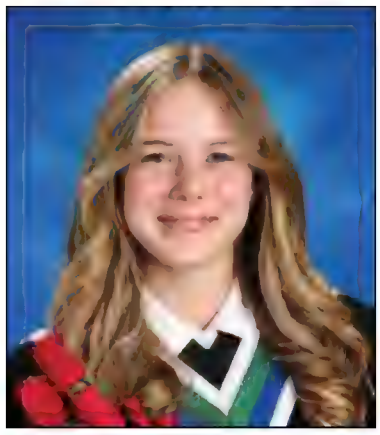
Bagshaw, Kelson


Bride Morris, Bella

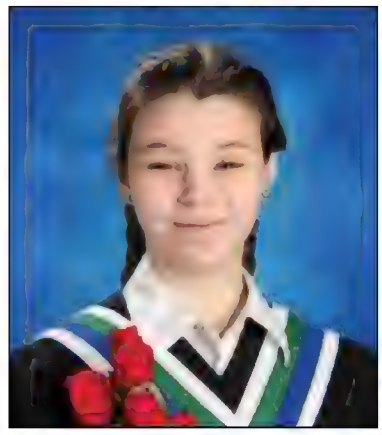
Campbell, Huxlee

Carpenter, Quinn


Cartwright, Brianna


Chambers, Jalynn

Collins, Chloe


Cox, Katherine

Cussion, Aurora

Cziraki, Michaela

Danilko, Vanessa

Dykes, Mckenna

Ecclestone, Nixon

Gardiner, Brayson

Gilbert, Cooper

Gottschalk, Raelyn

Graham, Truth

Harding, Ezra

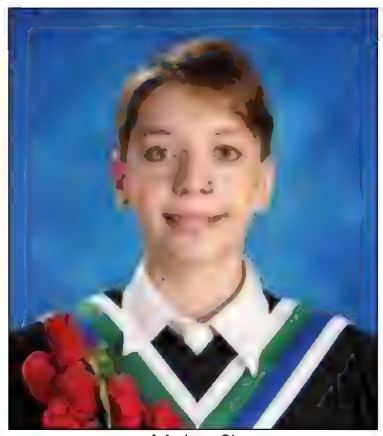
Hewitt, Aiden

Hughey, Cara

2026 Archie Stouffer Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Lagace, Shelby

Logan, Tenley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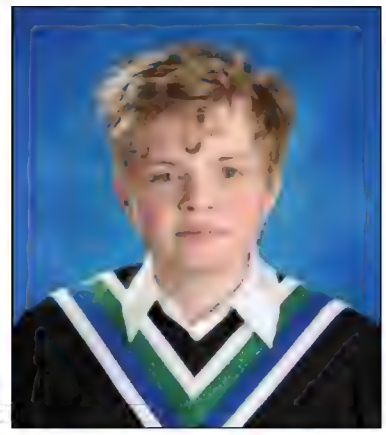
Milburn, Liam


Neville, Hunter

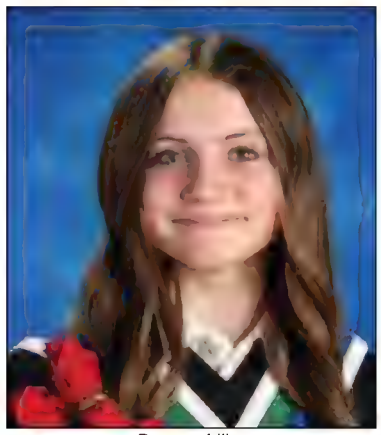
Noon, Liam

Pettes, Bently

Porzuczek, Jozef

Rickard, Olivia

Robinson, Sakura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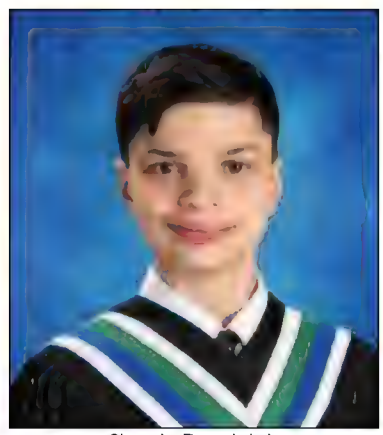
Shand, Rylan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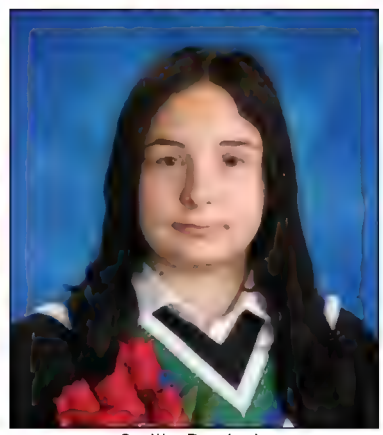
Smith, Rachel

Sperrino, Jackson

Switzer, Memphis

Taylor, Baylen

Turner, Emerson

Upton, Athena

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Minden, ON
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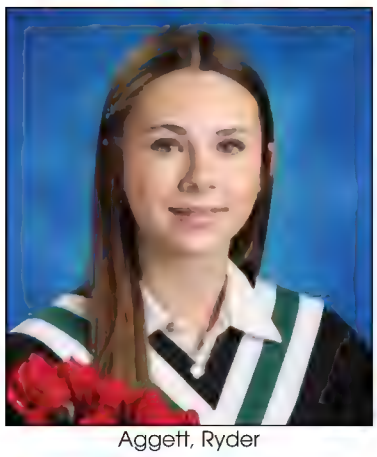
2026 J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates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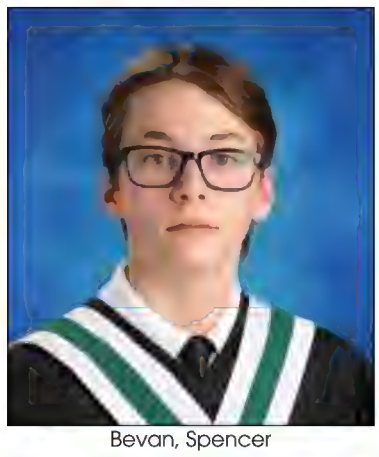
Barnes, Dominic

Bateman, Jacob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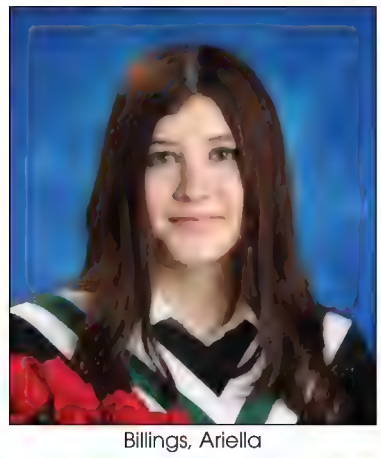
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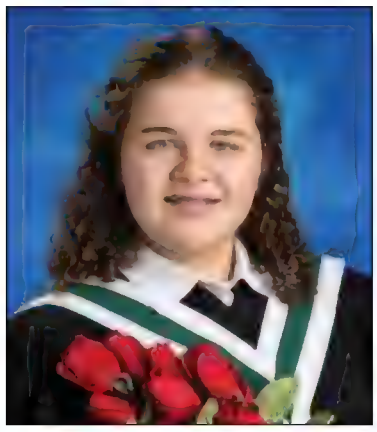
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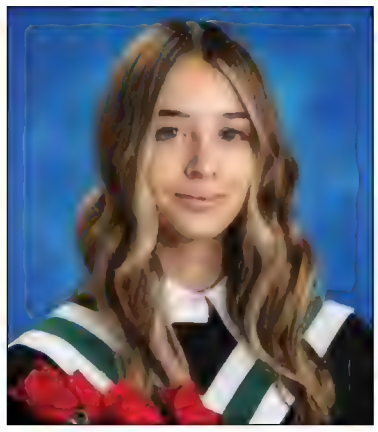
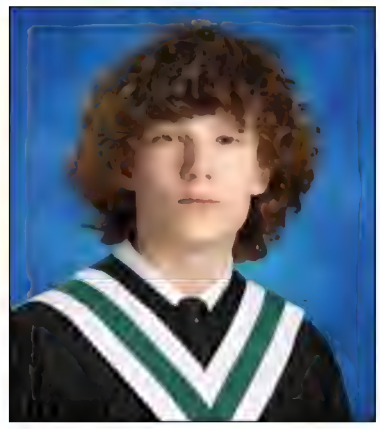
Boyle, Dylan

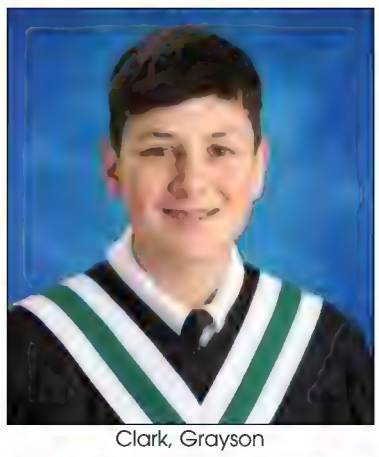

Brennan, Lilly

Burk, Avery


Cairns, Daniel

Casey, Anson

Chessman, Zoe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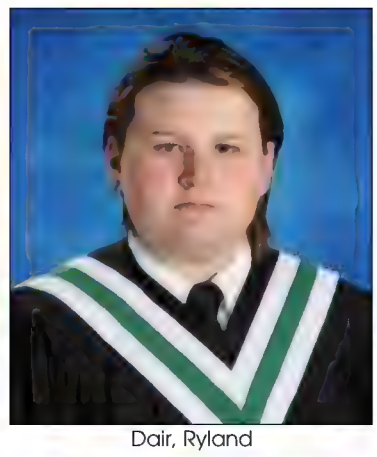
Cox, Kinley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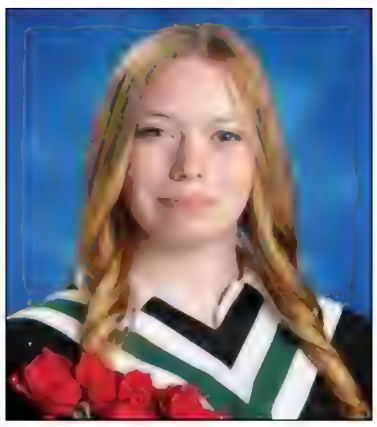
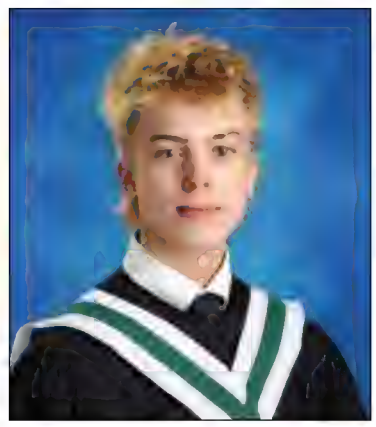
Elliot, Corbin

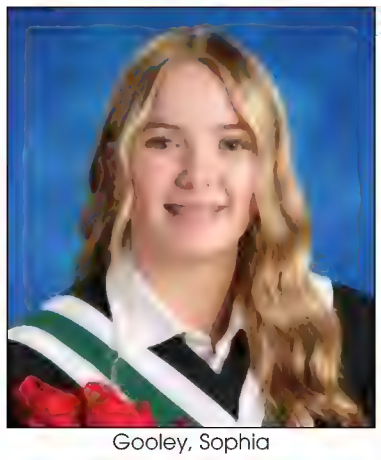
Ernewein, Mason


Gerrard, Sarah

Gervais, Linus


Gooley, James

2026 J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates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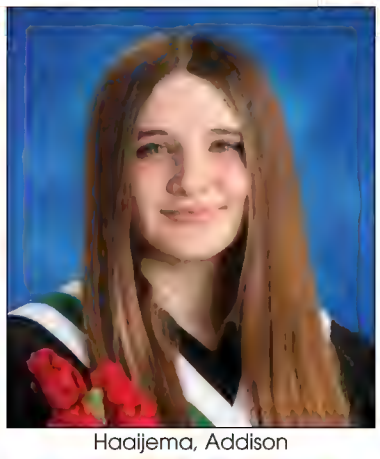
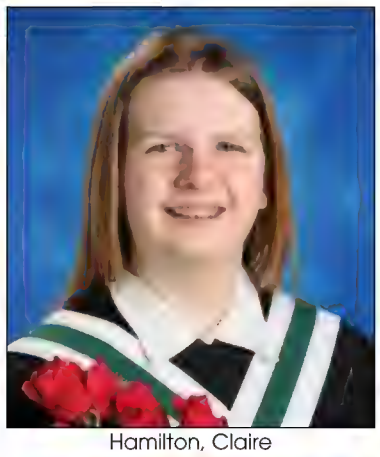

Haaijema, Addison


Hamilton, Claire

Hancock, Samuel

Heasman, Marshall

Hogan, Roisin

Howard, Zayn

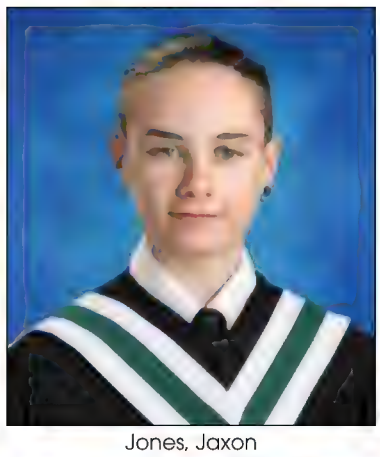
Hurd, Jaxon

Iles, Connor

Johnson, Rowen

Jones, Aley

Jones, Everett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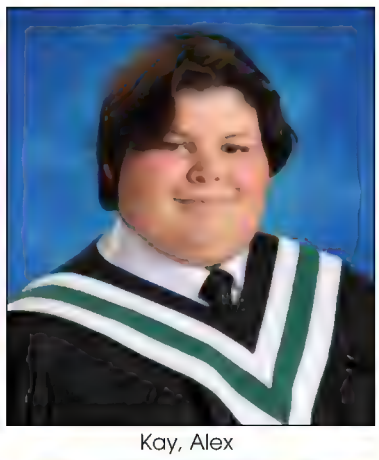
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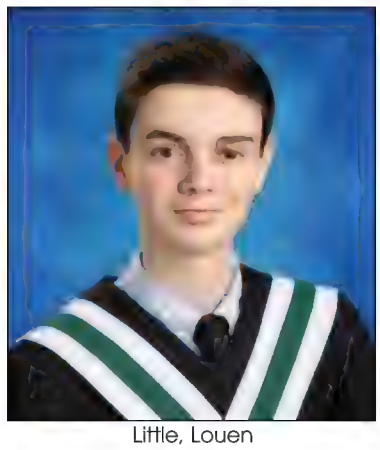
Kerr, Chase

Klapow, Nate

Legge, Nessie


Little, Louen

Long, Dezmond

Mann, Travis

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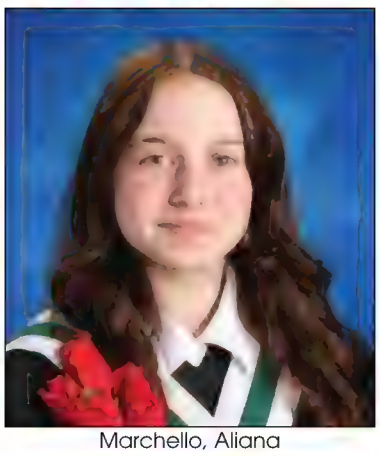
2026 J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates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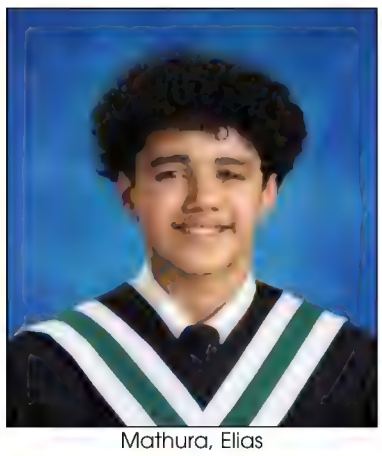
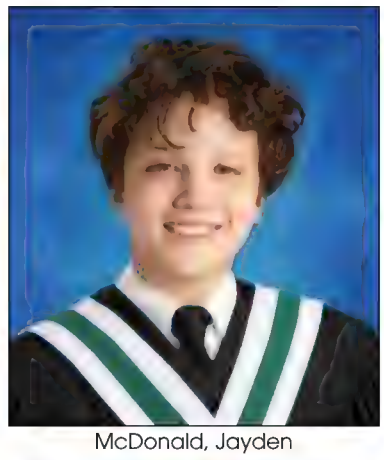
Mardus, Evelyn

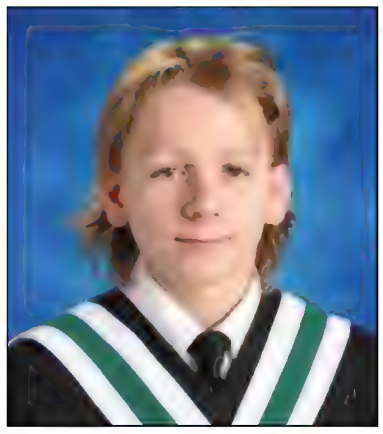

Mathura, Elias

McCarty, Mia


McDonald, Jayden

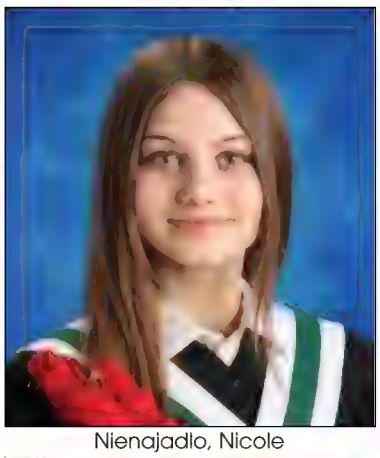
Mills, Maddie

Miscio, Jaelyn


Moynes, Jackson

Mueller, Matthew

Newby, Kaitlyn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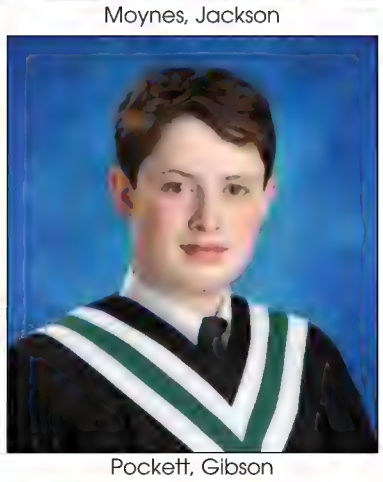
Patel, Naksh

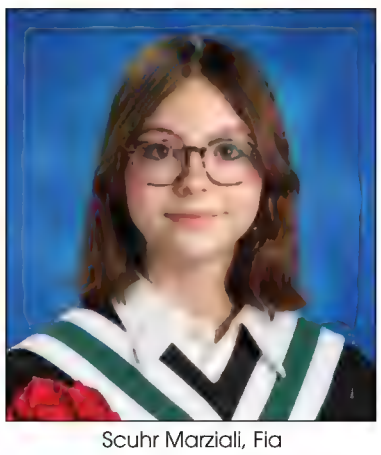

Pockett, Gibson

Purtell, Damien

Renel, Sena

Reynolds, Brantley

Ryalen, Claire


Scuhr Marziali, Fia

Sharp, Brooke

Smith, Lily

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Class of 2026!

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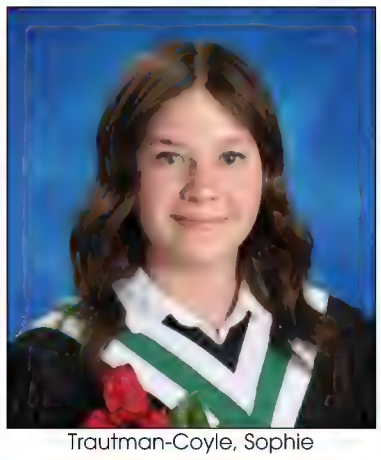
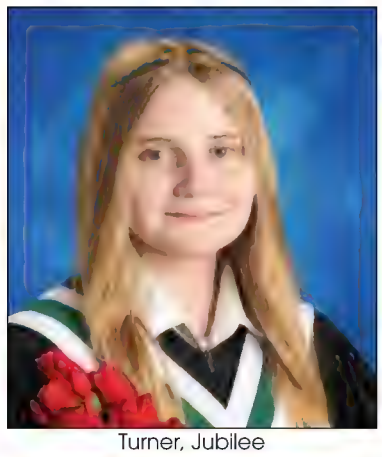
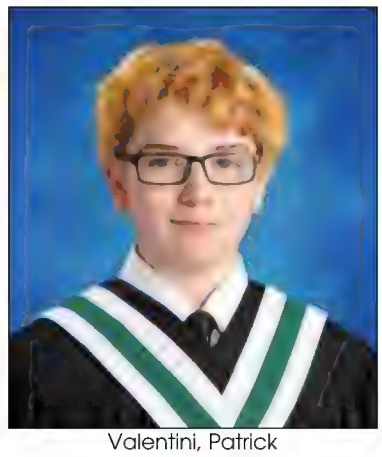
2026 J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

Sutherland, Maci

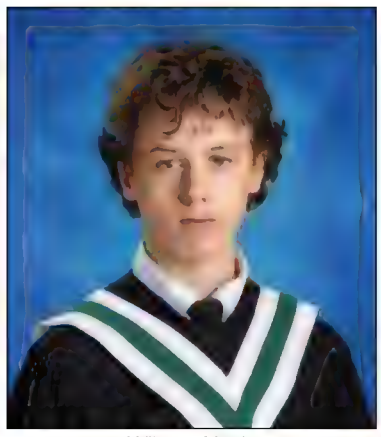

Trautman-Coyle, Sophie


Turner, Jubilee


Valentini, Patrick

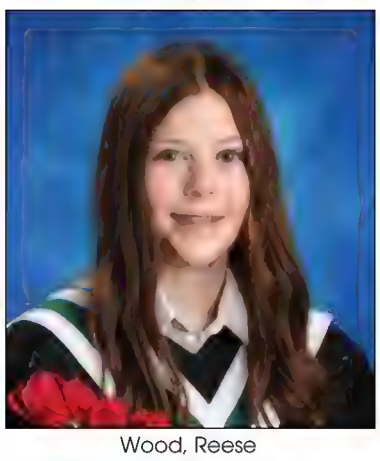
Walter, Giuliano

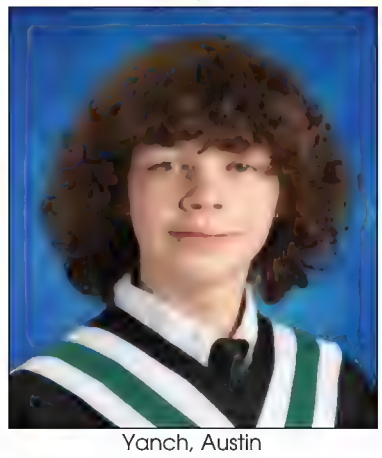
Williams, Olly


Wilson, Nash

Wilson, Teia

Windover, MacKay


Wood, Reese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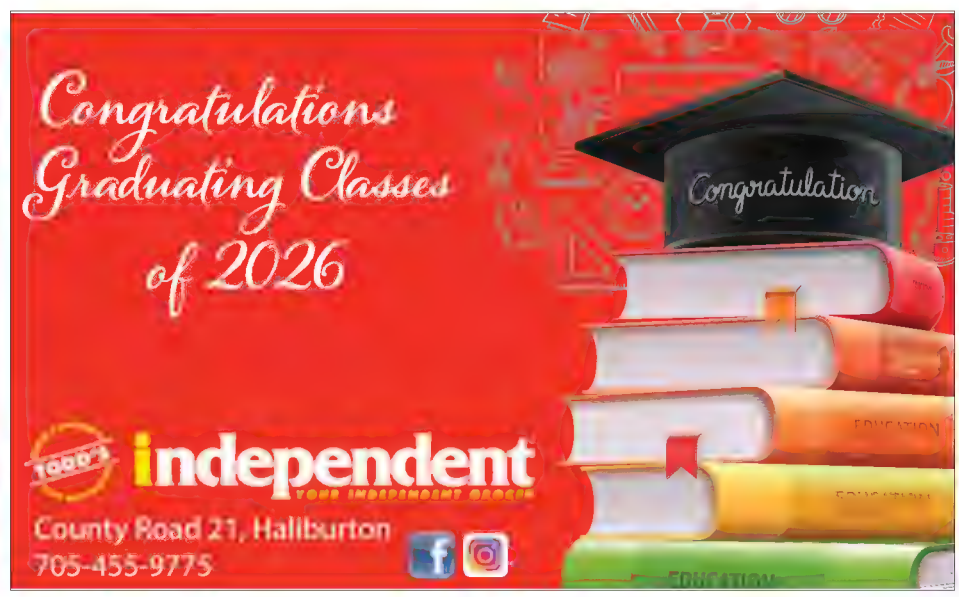


CONGRATS, GRADS!

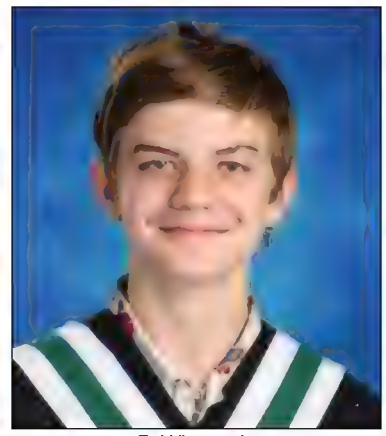
2026 Wilberforce Elementary School Gr. 8 Graduates

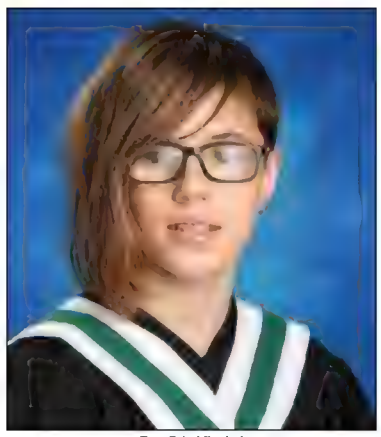
A. Burke

B. Lamb

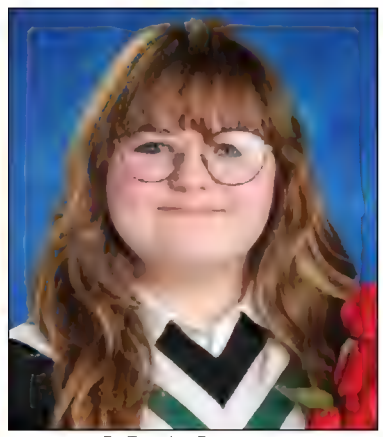
C. Cline

C. Wiebe


E. Wimperly


P. Oldfield

R. McKnight


R. Traviss-Downey

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School graduates will be featured next week, July 14.

MPP Laurie Scott Haliburton - Kawartha Lakes - Brock
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80th Birthday

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Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation is seeking a reliable and self-motivated **Cleaning/Maintenance Assistant** to join our team in Minden. This is currently a part-time position (30 hours per week), with the potential to evolve into a full-time position.

Primary duties include maintaining cleanliness of all buildings, common areas, laundry rooms, washrooms, etc. Secondary duties include minor maintenance repairs, painting, groundskeeping, garbage disposal, and assisting the Maintenance Supervisor with apartment turnovers.

Successful applicants will have experience in cleaning, the ability to work independently and a sound knowledge of employment safety regulations. WHMIS certification desired.
A valid drivers license and abstract plus a Vulnerable Sector Police Check will be required.

This position includes employer paid benefits (medical, dental, vision, life insurance and OMERS Pension). Wage: $20.00 per hour. Start date: July 20, 2026.

Please submit your resume no later than 4:30 p.m. - July 10, 2026 to:
Staanworth Non-Profit Housing Corporation, 44 Parkside Street, Minden, ON K0M 2K0
or email: manager@staanworth.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires:

One (1) Procurement Coordinator

This role is responsible for the coordination and facilitation of the procurement process in accordance with applicable regulations, legislation, trade agreements, industry best practices and the County's purchasing policies. This role ensures that all procurement documentation and communications comply with legislation and the County's policy for open, transparent, and competitive bidding and tendering processes.

The successful candidate will possess a public purchasing designation, five years of experience and relevant post-secondary education. Hourly wage range is $36.32 - $42.29.

Applications

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a detailed posting and job description. Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **July 10, 2026.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.
The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details.
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- Communicate repair procedures and findings clearly with Service Advisors
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- Support overall service department efficiency and customer satisfaction

Qualifications:
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- Valid Ontario Driver's Licence (Class G) with a clean driving record
- Ability to work collaboratively in a team-oriented environment
- Positive, professional attitude with strong interpersonal skills
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OBITUARY

Curtis Barker
Resident of Algonquin Highlands

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Curtis Stephen Barker, who passed away peacefully on June 26, 2026, in his 36th year. Curtis was a beloved husband, father, son, brother, and friend whose kindness, warmth, and laughter left a lasting mark on everyone who knew him.

Curtis is lovingly remembered by his wife, Megan Barker (née Fletcher), and his daughters, Sienna and Terra. He will be deeply missed by his father, Stephen Barker; his brother, Gavin Barker (Sammie); and his many extended family members and friends. Curtis was predeceased by his mother, Barbara Barker (née Bird).

Curtis was an exceptional father who showed his love for his family every day. He brought joy wherever he went and was devoted, caring, supportive, and endlessly fun to be around. His family was the centre of his world.

He enjoyed playing board games, disc golf, D&D, and going hiking, camping, and spending time outdoors. He loved exploring. He took great pride in his garden and apple orchard and cherished every opportunity to make memories with family and friends.

Curtis was known for his unwavering loyalty, strong work ethic, and dedication to everything he undertook. He had an incredible memory, was a wonderfully detailed storyteller, and could always make those around him laugh.

Curtis's warmth, generous spirit, and love of life will never be forgotten. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched, and he will be forever loved and deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Private Funeral Arrangements

As per the family's wishes, funeral arrangements are private. A Celebration of Curtis's life will take place at a later date. As an expression of sympathy, donations in Curtis' memory can be made to the Canadian Cholangiocarcinoma Collaborative - Fundraising for the Canadian Cancer Society. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME,** 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209.

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2	3	1	8	6	4	5	7	9
8	9	7	1	2	5	3	4	6
7	5	6	3	4	1	9	8	2
3	2	4	9	7	8	6	1	5
9	1	8	2	5	6	7	3	4
6	7	3	5	1	2	4	9	8
1	4	9	6	8	3	2	5	7
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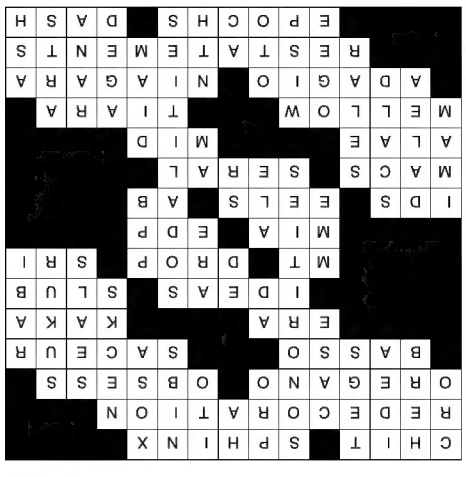

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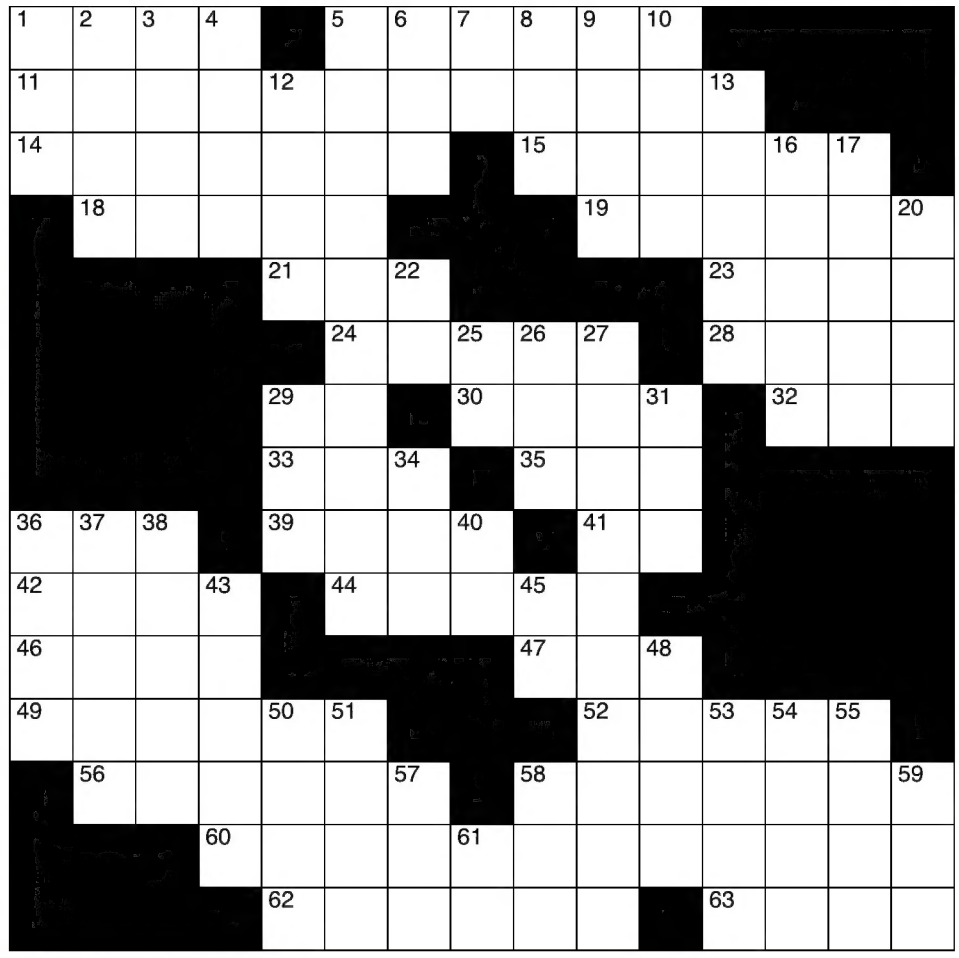
		5		3		8		1
2	3		8				7	
	9						4	6
	5					9	8	
3	2		9			6		5
					6	7		4
	7	3	5	1	2	4		
			6	8				
	8		4		7		6	

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



CLUES ACROSS

1. __ chat
5. Statue near the Pyramids
11. A process to change the look
14. Herb
15. Think about excessively
18. Bass vocal part
19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO
21. A major division of geological time
23. New Zealand parrot
24. Cognitive contents
28. Lump of yarn
29. Atomic #109
30. Let go of
32. Indian title of respect
33. Whereabouts unknown
35. Electronic data processing
36. Drivers' licenses count
39. Snakelike fishes
41. They precede C
42. Popular personal computers
44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession
46. Wings
47. Indicates position
49. Pleasantly smooth or soft
52. Jeweled headdress
56. In slow tempo
58. __ Falls
60. Reassertions
62. Eras
63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

1. Corporate executive
2. A plant used for flavoring food
3. Opinion or belief
4. Sheep in their second year
5. Intensities of sound
6. Indicates support for
7. Expression of laughter
8. OJ trial judge
9. Pointed ends of pens
10. True bugs genus
12. Lawyers argue theirs
13. Body parts
16. Closes tightly
17. World Heritage site in Nigeria
20. Islamic calendar month
22. Commercial
25. 'Westworld' actor Harris
26. They __
27. Religious guilds
29. Woman (French)
31. Parts per billion (abbr.)
34. Brew
36. Spiritual leader
37. Indigo bush
38. Burn with a hot liquid
40. Older citizen
43. Scad fish genus
45. Morning
48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)
50. Double S-shaped curve
51. Small, thin person
53. Older
54. Mars crater
55. Humanities
57. Word element meaning ear
58. To the __ degree
59. Residue
61. It cools your home

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Health services executive returned

The executive of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Board will be the same for the coming year. The executive was confirmed by the board following the corporation's annual meeting June 26 in Minden.

Continuing on the board will be chair Hugh Nichol, first vice chair David Coulson, second vice chair Ross Rabjohn, secretary Rita Jones and treasurer Ken Wilson. Paul Heffer remains in the position of immediate past president.

There was some discussion about the position of second vice chair, held by Ross Rabjohn. He is one of two members appointed by Haliburton County Council. Rabjohn, the reeve of Sherborne et al, has indicated that he does not intend to seek office in the upcoming municipal election later this year.

Concern was expressed about the fact that since Rabjohn would not be a member of council as of December, the position of second vice chair and the chairmanship of the finance committee would be vacant as well. Board member Paul Heffer pointed out that it is important to maintain continuity in this key position and the board should consider appointing another member of the board. He said that in addition to the continuity that would be established, it would also allow another member of the board to move into an executive position.

Rabjohn admitted there would not be any guarantee he would be appointed by the county next year, but he was interested in the work and seeing the challenges through to completion.

A letter from County Warden Murray Fearrey was read to the meeting. The letter said the council was pleased with the representation provided by Rabjohn and the other county appointment Elva Bates.

Heffer noted that his concern was about the important

(more on page 2)

Three year old Bailey Cole discovered that this face painting thing isn't all it's cracked up to be, at least not while the paint is being applied, no matter how gently. But the crinkled nose and furrowed brow quickly disappeared when the painting was over and she had been transformed into a black nosed puppy dog. For more photos from Minden's Canada Day celebrations, please turn to pages six and seven.

HHSS science innovator wins national recognition

by Kevin Brezina

For those who have been neither a student nor a teacher in the Haliburton Highlands school system during the last four years, energy, light and matter may seem to be an unusual and ambitious combination of subjects to teach. These are the scientific big three after all; the nuts and bolts of the universe.

Over the last five years, groups of students under the leadership of Dave Mowat, have been attempting to simplify and teach these somewhat abstract concepts to elementary school students through a program known as ELM, (Energy, Light, Matter).

It's no secret to anyone who has participated in the program how important Mowat's leadership has been. This exceptional effort was formally recognized by the Canadian College of Teachers, June 27, as The HHSS science teacher was awarded the Margaret A. Johnson Memorial Teaching Excellence Award.

The ELM program started in 1993 as an Earth Day project for the HHSS OAC biology and grade 11 entrepreneurship classes. The idea was to provide intermediate level students with a living, breathing classroom, where lessons on science could be mixed with an athletic dynamic to produce an entirely original learning experience.

What resulted was a trail through the forest behind the high school in Haliburton with a number of stops or "stations". At each of these stations, the students would be presented with a short skit or problem solving situation related to the three key concepts.

The program started out small, with only 21 elementary school

(more on page 16)

Dave Mowat, HHSS science teacher.

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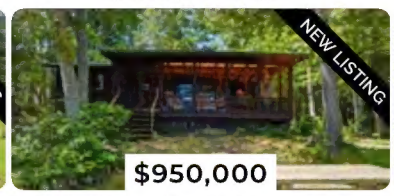

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LONG LAKE

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REYNOLDS ROAD

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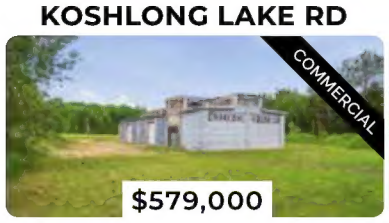
BED 2+1 | BATH 3 | MLS #X13454954

SOUTH PORTAGE LAKE

BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13420872

HALIBURTON VILLAGE

BED 2 | BATH 2 | MLS #X13481332

KOSHLONG LAKE RD


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ALLEN LAKE

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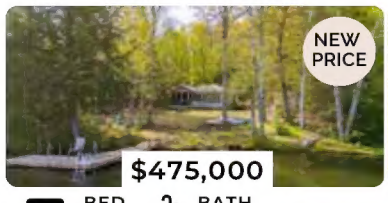
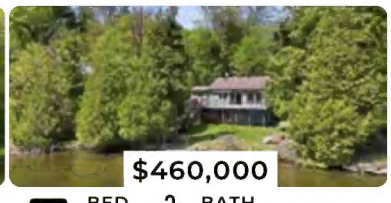
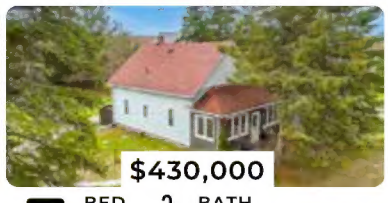
MONROCK LAKE


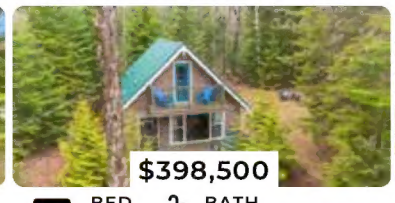
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13177210

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE


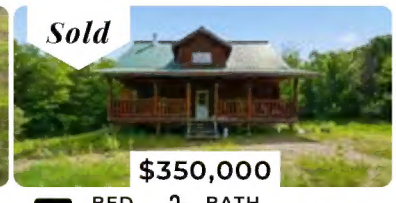
BED 3 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13222622

COUNTY ROAD 503


BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13111224

GLAMOR LAKE ROAD


BED 2 | BATH 1 | MLS #X13122288

MCCREA ROAD


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1.21 Acres | MLS #X13118448

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